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NARRATIVE

OF THE

SHIPWRECK

OF THE

Sophia,

ON THE 30TH OF MAY, 1819,

ON THE

WESTERN COAST OF AFRICA,

AND OF

THE CAPTIVITY OF A PART OF THE CREW IN THE DESERT OF SAHARA.

WITH ENGRAVINGS.

BY CHARLES COCHELET,

ANCIENT PAYMASTER-GENERAL IN CATALONIA, AND ONE OF THE SUFFERERS.

LONDON:

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INTRODUCTION.

Within the last twenty-five years no less than thirty vessels, of all nations, have been wrecked on the inhospitable coast on which we were thrown. Nevertheless, it is well known, that these shipwrecks have all been produced by the same cause; it is well known, that dangerous currents carry along the vessels towards the western coast of Africa. Let us hope, that the different naval authorities will at length take proper measures to prevent these accidents, and that captains of vessels will in future receive instructions to avoid a shore, which has already proved fatal to so many human beings.

One only of our countrymen, (and it was satisfactory to learn that there were no more), who had been shipwrecked, while yet very young, on these unfortunate coasts, has remained among the Moors, adopted their customs, and embraced their religion. He still exists in the environs of Ouadnoun, where he carries on a manufactory of gun-powder. The Notes which M. Dupuis has received of his death, and of which mention is made in Captain Riley's relation, are, consequently, incorrect.

Previous to quitting my native country, I solicited the Minister of the Interior to grant me a mission in that part of the world to which I was going; and M. de Cazes addressed to me the following letter:

Sir,—I accept the offer which you have made me, of profiting by the residence which you intend making at Brazil, in order to procure to France new information respecting the actual state of Manners, Commerce, Agriculture, the Arts, and Public Instruction in that interesting point of the globe. I shall receive with satisfaction the notes which you may be enabled to address to me on these different subjects, and which you propose to extend to Natural History, which is always enriched with new discoveries. In order to aid you in your researches, I have written to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to inform him of your intended voyage, and begging him to invite the Chargé d'Affaires of France at the Brazils, to furnish you with the facilities which may be necessary for you. Details respecting the situation of French artists and literati, who have gone to seek their fortunes in that distant country, will be naturally blended with those about which you have to occupy yourself, and will not fail to be interesting to the country which gave them birth.

I have the honour to be, &c.

"Paris, 29th April, 1819. Signed, Count Decazes."

My subsequent misfortunes prevented the completion of these intentions.

Seven Engravings and a Map illustrate my work, and I pledge myself for their fidelity.

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NARRATIVE

OF THE

SHIPWRECK OF THE SOPHIA,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

Departure from Nantes.—Uncertainty of the course.—The sailors perceive land.—The ship strikes and runs a-ground on the coast of Sahara.—Savages arrive on the coast.—The crew go ashore.—Combat with the savages.—Seven of the crew regain the vessel and put to sea.—Six of the sufferers remain in the power of the savages.

THE ship *Sophia*, commanded by Captain Scheult, put to sea on the 14th of May, 1819. There were on-board, independent of the captain, M. Souza, second captain; M. Eugene Chalumeau, lieutenant; seven sailors, and three passengers, viz. M. Mexia, a Portuguese ecclesiastic; Bento Dasilva, a sailor; and myself: in all thirteen persons. A very fine sea permitted us to pass, without difficulty, the dangerous parts of the gulph of Gascony; the weather was favourable, and in a few days we reached the latitude of Madeira. The captain wished to receive information at this place, in order to be assured as to his point of longitude; but, since our departure, the wind having blown high, with the exception of the first few days, almost continually from the west, he was always baffled and obliged, against his intention, to pass to the east of this isle, at a distance which would not allow him to perceive it. He hoped to be more fortunate by touching at the Canaries; but on the 27th we found that we had arrived at their height, and the latitude being well observed, our eyes were in vain directed towards the horizon, in order to discover the land, which was to fix the uncertainty of our position.

On the 28th and part of the 29th, the sea was constantly swelling, and as the wind was very feeble, we made but little progress; our endeavours to perceive the land were still fruitless. In the mean time a general uneasiness began to manifest itself, notwithstanding the opinion of Captain Scheult, and the two other officers, who, according to their calculations, thought

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they were in a direct line for the great Canary Island. At length, on the evening of the 29th, a few minutes after sun-set, a sailor who had been on the look-out, on the fore-mast, cried out, land! and in fact we soon perceived it at the distance of about eight leagues to the eastward. This land, which appeared on the horizon, entirely free from clouds, being examined with attention, induced me to think that it was the Island of Laucerotte; and its appearance, compared with that on the charts, served in some measure to confirm this supposition.

However, this opinion did not remove the uneasiness which I began to feel as to the direction we had taken, and which would bring us, in the middle of night, into the Canary Isles. It would have been, in my opinion, more prudent to have tacked; and not having done so, is perhaps the only reproach which can be attached to the captain; but being convinced, from his observations, that the land we had perceived was Laucerotte, he regarded this manœuvre as an unnecessary delay. This night, which was to terminate by the most horrible catastrophe, appeared to me of a deadly length. I waited with great impatience for its termination, in order that the return of day might at last discover to us a horizon, which my restless imagination represented to me as formed by rocks.

It was now nearly four o'clock in the morning; the moon had just disappeared, and an hour after the day discovered to us our position. The sea, which hitherto had always been beautiful and often calm, now began to be agitated by the violence of a heavy squall from the north, which blew in our faces. Suddenly a terrible shock was felt; and we ran against rocks with a dreadful crash! M. Mexia cried to me: "We are all lost!" I speedily rushed out of my cabin, and we threw ourselves in each other's arms, exhorting one another to resignation. But how difficult it is to possess it, in so horrible a situation, when we all see our last hour approaching, and are expressing, by signs of despair, the loss of all our earthly affections! I was soon on deck, where, in the midst of consternation and tumult, I heard the often repeated cry, "All sails down! put the long boat to sea!" I begged the captain to tell me what he thought of this awful event. "What can I say to you," replied he, "I know no more than you where we are; I see nothing." In the mean time the ship, driven by the impetuosity of the wind, ran against a high flat ground, and experienced a shock every time it struck, which threatened instant destruction. The thick fog which surrounded us was confounded with the land; a feeble twilight permitted us to see it, but yet we could not distinguish it perfectly. It seemed that the ship, surrounded every where by rocks, was about to split in a kind of gulph, which the appear-

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ance of the rocks presented to our eyes. At length having struck on all sides, the vessel ran aground, and lay motionless, exposed to the fury of the ocean.

Immediately the sails were hauled down, and with incredible efforts we succeeded in putting the long boat to sea. An anchor and cable were then put into it, and carried to a great distance in the north-west; but all our efforts were vain: our misfortune was irreparable, and the day which began to appear, soon revealed to us the horror of our situation. It was not in the midst of islands, as we had imagined, that our fatal destiny threw us. A sandy beach of immeasurable extent presented itself to our view! it was on the coast of Africa—on that inhospitable and barbarous coast, which has always been the terror of seamen.

It would be difficult to depict the grief which such a disaster occasioned to us all. What fate awaited us in that detested region? Our unfortunate vessel, beaten about by a sea which progressively enlarged, might at every moment be in danger of going to the bottom. It was then necessary to determine speedily how to act. With eyes mournfully fixed on the immense desert, which was to become our only refuge from sudden destruction, we endeavoured to discover some signs of vegetation, some marks of human habitation, but nothing at first presented itself to our view, but the horrible spectacle of dreary solitude.

We imagined that so barren a soil could not be inhabited, but after an hour's fruitless examination, we suddenly discovered at a distance, a black figure coming towards us. The contrast of his colour (for he was entirely naked) with the paleness of the soil, soon removed all doubt: it was a negro! In a few minutes he arrived in great haste at the shore, and made repeated signs to us to land. I had, together with my companions, wished to see some inhabitants, in the hope that they would take pity on our misfortunes; but the appearance of the first, was not at all calculated to remove our fears, which, on the contrary, were greatly increased, when a few moments after the apparition of the hideous being who still gambolled on the shore, (no doubt in token of his satisfaction at the booty which he had in perspective), we saw a number of savages of the same species, descending the neighbouring hills of sand, and coming to join him, with their wives and children. The sight of women and children might have calmed our apprehensions. These women were not entirely naked, they appeared to have round their bodies some shreds of a kind of linen-cloth which nearly half covered them: which was a sign that these barbarians might have some connexion with people more civilized than themselves. But this observation, without escaping us, in no way diminished

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our melancholy forebodings. The most intrepid among us, as well as the feeblest, were equally seized with alarm.

It was necessary, however, to have some nearer communication with these men; and M. Chalumeau, our lieutenant, was the first to offer himself for that purpose. The captain ordered three sailors to accompany this officer in the long boat, which we took care to fasten strongly to the vessel, so as to be able to draw it towards us at the first signal which they were to make, should they perceive the least hostile demonstrations.

In order to defend himself from a first surprize, M. Chalumeau took a pair of pocket pistols, loaded with shot. He concealed them under his clothes, that he might occasion no uneasiness. Having gained the shore, he was instantly surrounded by a number of men who rushed into the sea, having the water up as high as their shoulders. These men, by their expressive gestures, seemed to engage the lieutenant to leave the boat; and, in fact, we saw him leap a-shore, after a short hesitation.

He was immediately conducted to a hill of sand at a short distance from the shore, where we soon perceived him near a fire which they had just kindled, and which our imagination made us regard as the instrument of his destruction. The lieutenant remained nearly half an hour in this position, when we saw a negro separate himself from the troop and get into the boat; we then, by means of the rope, drew him to our vessel. We again sent the boat on shore with some barrels of biscuits and provisions, and it returned, bringing another savage.

These two men, who were sent to tranquillize us, inspired us with dreadful apprehensions. Their figures were hideous; I should have looked upon them as apes of the most frightful species, had not their bodies, which no clothing concealed, possessed the human form. By their manner of jumping into the vessel, their gestures, and their mode of sitting squat upon the ground, they might have been taken for orang-outangs. Could I ever have supposed, that these creatures would one day exercise an empire over us, and that beings, who certainly form the last link of the chain which joins man to beasts, should become our masters and treat us as their property?

The more frightful they appeared to us, the more we endeavoured, by all the means in our power, to gain their friendship. In any other situation, it would no doubt have been laughable to see the attentions which we lavished upon them. We gave them abundance of provisions; but what they most desired were biscuits and tobacco. In the mean time, repeated cries from the shore called them back. Notwithstanding the presence of

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the lieutenant among them, they apprehended, perhaps, some danger for their companions on-board our vessel. We resolved therefore to send them away, and M. Mexia and myself accompanied them. We left the captain and five of the crew on-board, and brought with us our luggage as well as that of the sailors. I was also careful to take my gun and some powder, the former of which I carried in my hand on landing.

An Arab, who, as we afterwards learned, was called Fairry, came forward to receive us. He did not appear so wild as those we had already seen, although he was equally naked. He made many expressive gestures to us, held out one hand in token of hospitality, and the other, to which there remained only one finger (having lost four by a wound), he extended towards Heaven, repeating several times, as one penetrated with our misfortunes: *Allah-akbar*, God is great.

A number of women, of disgusting figures, came to us demanding biscuits and tobacco. They were accompanied by a great many children. We gave them immediately what they so ardently desired, having nothing more at heart than to ingratiate ourselves with them as much as possible. Fairry took me by the hand, conducted me to a hill of sand at a short distance from the sea. I had always my gun along with me. He tried several times to take it, as if with the intention of relieving me from its weight. I refused for a long time, but reflecting afterwards, that we had only a small quantity of arms, which were insufficient for our defence, in case of being attacked, I gave it to him, in order to shew the unlimited confidence which I placed in him.

His intention, in conducting me to this hill, was no doubt to shew me the barrenness of the desert, and prove to us, that our situation was even more frightful than we had conceived it to be. If such was his object, he gained it completely, for it was impossible to consider, without alarm, the immense plains of sand which were displayed before me, the calm and silent uniformity of which was a thousand times more imposing than the agitation of the ocean in a period of tempest. At this aspect, I felt as if some new and unexpected misfortune had befallen me; a cold sweat ran abundantly over my whole frame; the most dreadful ideas assailed me; the image of all whom I had lost, of all whom I had occasion to regret, presented itself in a confused mass to my mind. Country, relations, friends, all the affections of life, were taken away from me at once. On all sides, whether on considering this frightful desert, or directing my eyes towards the ocean, I saw nothing but death, which appeared the more terrible as it was likely to be prolonged.

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Struck with such a spectacle, I returned with all haste to those of my companions who were on the shore, in order to concert with them what measures we ought to take. "What have you seen?" cried they to me, as soon as I joined them. My sadness sufficiently explained to them that I had no good to communicate, and finding that all hope was lost, they mingled their tears with mine. The Arabs, who surrounded us, soon gave us to understand that we had reason to fear the arrival of the Mussulmen. "Mussulmen *foute*, (wicked)" said they to us; and by signs too expressive, laying their hands upon our necks, they indicated to us, that if these wicked men arrived, they would infallibly murder us. These gestures were perhaps only to frighten us; but, even in this supposition we thought it prudent to be upon our guard with those who acted towards us as protectors.

In consequence, we hailed the captain, who was still on-board, and, by our gestures and cries, we induced him to join us with the rest of the crew. He immediately came, bringing with him provisions, and every thing necessary, provided we should again be obliged to put to sea, in which case he intended to venture in the long-boat, and steer on the Canary Islands. As soon as we were all assembled, we placed every thing which we had carried away from the vessel, in one spot, at the distance of nearly fifty feet from the shore. The Arabs, who wished us to believe in their benevolent intentions, assured us that they would touch nothing; they appeared even to regard our effects with a kind of indifference. Some of them pointed to the south, and made us understand that they would bring us to Senegal. Others indicated to us the north, and the word Soueirah (the meaning of which was long a matter of uncertainty) was, for the first time, vociferated in our ears by these horrible beings, who seemed to attach all our hopes to it, and who had even a menacing air in the expression of interest which they feigned for us.

Far from inspiring us with confidence, these exaggerated demonstrations of zeal produced a contrary effect upon us, and induced us to seek, as soon as possible, the means of getting rid of company, which became, at every instant, more alarming, for they received continual augmentations by the number of fresh arrivals. In this extremely critical position, we had only two methods to take, and it was necessary to adopt one of them; these were, either promptly to fly from the coast, after arranging our long-boat for that purpose, or endeavour to reach the empire of Morocco, from which we supposed we were only about a hundred leagues. Whilst we remained in uncertainty as to what course we should adopt, the Arabs suddenly termi-

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A Native of the desert of Sahara.

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nated our discussion by changing their dispositions with respect to us, their numbers having increased while we were deliberating; they then no longer concealed their real intentions. Men of a more atrocious figure than the first, began to arrive, armed with poniards and fire-locks. Being now sure of their superiority, they precipitated themselves upon us, and endeavoured to seize our last means of defence; Captain Scheult, whom they wished to strip, resisted. The barbarians drew upon him, and presented a pistol to his forehead, as if they intended killing him. Convinced they would proceed to this extremity, and that the same fate equally awaited us all, we listened only to the voice of despair, and ran to the assistance of the captain, chosing rather to meet with death in defending ourselves, than to wait till they massacred us in cool blood.

The captain, however, being stronger than the Arab who threatened him, speedily threw him; the latter, raising himself with fury, made a leap backwards, and discharged a pistol-shot at him, which fortunately only carried away his hat. This act of hostility became the signal for a general attack, and consequently they discharged all their arms at us; thanks to their precipitation, they missed us, and by a like good fortune, they were at the moment deprived of all ammunition, which rendered it impossible for them to renew their fire.

This unexpected circumstance changed the mode of warfare, but did not terminate the battle. We attacked each other, on the contrary, with fresh fury, throwing the stones, which covered the shore, with great violence at each other's heads; the women and children, having taken refuge on a neighbouring hill, excited the rage of our adversaries by the bitterest cries; at the same time they kept continually throwing up sand into the air, in order to draw from the desert fresh reinforcements against us. They frequently availed themselves of this manœuvre as a signal.

Being inferior in number, and less adroit than our enemies in an engagement of this nature, we were soon driven upon the shore, where, to complete our misfortune, we perceived our boat entirely filled with water; we were even afraid that it had been staved, having for a long time beat with violence against the rocks, near which we had imprudently left it. Amidst the despair which such a disappointment occasioned, a part of the crew made vain efforts to empty it; I lent a hand for this purpose, but we could not succeed.

What a dreadful perspective! we could no longer return to the vessel, but in braving dangers as great as those from which we were anxious to fly. Those who were the best swimmers had alone a chance of escape; the sea was appalling; however, the sailor Coustiou threw himself first into the sea, and was soon followed by another. Both were fortunate enough to reach the

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ship, where having once arrived, they, by means of the rope which was still attached to the vessel, drew the boat towards them, into which the rest of the sailors, with one exception, had ventured to expose themselves. I know not by what inconceivable good fortune the boat did not sink to the bottom; it was so full of water, that we only distinguished the heads of our unfortunate companions, which rose, from time to time, above the waves. They, however, escaped from this new danger, and reached the ship as miraculously as the two others.

There now remained only six on the shore, viz. the captain, Messrs. Mexia, Souza, Chalumeau, the sailor Affile, and myself; we had now nothing to expect but to be massacred by the savages, after the resistance which we had opposed to them. In the meantime the battle had ceased, and the savages, having raised the mask, employed themselves in breaking open with hatchets, the trunks and boxes which contained our property. Some of them called us towards them, but we were no longer the dupes of their pretended benevolence. Entirely sheltered on the banks of the sea, and wet by the waves which burst over our heads, we waited, in the most violent despair, for the issue of this disastrous scene.

However, we had soon no other resource but to place ourselves entirely at their discretion; we therefore, after a little hesitation, resolved to join them. Having got possession of all that belonged to us, perhaps, said we to ourselves, without daring to hope for it, they will consent to leave us unmolested; in fact, when we approached towards them, they at first did not seek to cause us any fresh alarms: they confined themselves to taking our watches, which we still had about us, and this operation was done with so much eagerness, that it was impossible for me to distinguish an individual who, with much dexterity, took from me a purse, containing gold and diamonds to the amount of five hundred pounds. However, they were unable to find other jewels which I had about me, and which chance, more than any foresight of mine, concealed from the activity of their researches.

Being partly stripped, and a prey to uneasiness which we expressed only by a mournful silence, we threw ourselves upon the sand near a miserable tent, which the family of Fairry, (who appeared one of the most conspicuous among these barbarians,) had just raised for their use. Our grief rendered us indifferent to the distribution of the spoils which was taking place around us in the midst of cries, or rather, the most frightful yells. With eyes mournfully turned towards our poor vessel, we attentively followed the movements of those of our companions, who had the happiness to escape from the fate which appeared to be reserved for us. They were busily employed in emptying the

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water from the boat, and making every necessary disposition in order to put it in a state to proceed to sea. Their activity was remarkable; they laboured like men, who, by the least delay, were in danger of losing all hope of safety.

We had every reason to fear that they would remove without making the least attempt to take us with them, when suddenly, notwithstanding the terror with which the still increasing violence of the waves must have inspired them, we saw them directing the boat towards the shore, and making signs to us to throw ourselves instantly into the sea, in order to reach it. Animated by the desire of rejoining our companions, we immediately ran towards them; but our movements, and the approach of the boat, were observed by the Arabs. Their fury was again excited, and some of them suddenly abandoned the booty, about which they were disputing with each other, in order to try and draw the boat to the shore, which the agitation of the sea could alone guarantee from being boarded. In vain our unfortunate friends tried every means in their power to save us; seeing the impossibility of succeeding, they made off with all haste, afraid of falling a second time into the hands of these barbarians. From this moment they lost not an instant; they soon hoisted a sail to their boat, threw some provisions into it, and the whole seven removed from us for ever, carrying away with them the only hope which had been left us. When we saw them depart, we all stood up by a spontaneous movement, extended our arms towards them, endeavouring, by our cries and gestures, to express to them our adieus and our regrets; but terror had seized hold upon them: they made us no answer, regarded only the odious shore on which they had abandoned us, and gained in silence the main sea, where they were soon to disappear from our view.

How can I describe the sentiments to which my soul was a prey, at the moment of this cruel separation? I know not whether the regret of not being of their party, surpassed the anxiety which I felt, as to the fate which appeared to await my companions, who had embarked in this slight and feeble bark. We were fully convinced that they could not escape a certain death, for the weather presaged a tempest; as to myself, if I envied their situation, it was because I saw an imminent danger attending it, affording a certainty of finding a speedy termination to the sufferings which began to assail us.

During more than two hours my eyes remained fixed on the horizon, in order to have a last look of the sail of the boat, which the contrast of its colour, with that of a cloudy sky, permitted me to distinguish for a long time; when it disappeared, at the approach of night, all hope of again seeing my native country was for ever abandoned.

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CHAPTER II.

The savages pillage the vessel.—Their portrait.—Family of Fairry.—The sufferers are sent off to the vessel to procure provisions.—Torments which they experience.—Dreadful situation of M. Cochelet.

It will easily be conceived how dreadful was the first night which we were obliged to pass on the sand, without having taken the smallest nourishment, and with our clothes completely drenched. We abandoned ourselves to the most gloomy ideas respecting our future situation, lying close to each other, as much to diminish the impression of an excessive cold, as in the fear of some surprise. Were we not to suppose that those men, who surrounded us, would profit by the obscurity of night in order the more easily to dispatch us? we did not, at this time, suspect that they would be contented with making slaves of us; the uncertainty as to our fate, an uncertainty which lasted nearly all the period of our captivity, began from this moment to be our cruellest torment. Thus our first night passed amidst continual alarms; these barbarians, with their weapons always in their hands, skulked unceasingly around us, in order to see if we were asleep, while they kept talking among themselves, and casting the most ferocious looks towards us. Sometimes, at the least movement which we made, they would touch us on the cheek, crying, *n'sara*, (christians), and although they did us no injury, they nevertheless excited our fears.

The approach of day diminished not the sadness of our reflections; the wind having blown with impetuosity the whole night, and the sea being more agitated than ever, we felt the utmost anxiety for the fate of our companions. While we regretted being unable to follow them, we had every reason to believe that they had perished the first. Had their departure been only retarded for a few hours, it would have been impossible for them to have cleared the bed of rocks, which extended more than a mile and a half in width; they were only enabled to avoid them in consequence of the less agitated state of the sea, after a few days of calm; this cause, which facilitated to us the approach of the coast, rendered our shipwreck less dangerous than it would have been a day later; for, as we afterwards observed, the tide beats with extreme violence on the western coast of Africa.

We remarked the effect of the tide, in driving the vessel considerably nearer the shore. Although in a much more inclined position than the previous evening, the ship was, nevertheless, entire, and opposed a resistance to the efforts of the waves, which, while it broke them, carried them mast-high. It was

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now possible to get on-board, by swimming a short distance; and, as every tide would push the vessel still nearer the shore, the Arabs regarded her as their prey. After making the preparatives for seizing upon it, they rushed into the sea, uttering cries of joy as frightful as those of their rage. Some were supplied with hatchets, which they took care to fasten round their bodies, that they might not be too much embarrassed in swimming; others took with them all the tools necessary for breaking down and demolishing the vessel.

During this first operation, we had leisure to consider more attentively the places which surrounded us, and the hideous families, of whom we were about to form a part as slaves, if the spirit of vengeance, among such men, should cede to the interest which they might have in preserving our lives. We were surrounded by groups of women and children, who began to insult us, and unfeelingly to laugh at our misfortunes. The only men who remained on the shore were Fairry, to whose care we appeared to be confided, and two other Arabs, who were soon disposed to quit us, in order to join those who had already begun to pillage the vessel. The strokes of the hatchet redoubled, and these two men remained behind, burning with desire to take part in the spoils. By hearing them often calling each other, we learned that their names were Hamet and Sinne; they had only appeared the evening before, at the moment of our combat, so that I hardly then thought of examining them. Seeing them now so near me, I was shocked by their frightful appearance; if the others appeared to me horrible, I have no words to describe the latter. Sinne above all was remarkable; his colour was not entirely that of a negro, but resembled it much; a piece of ragged stuff, which went nearly round his waist, formed his only clothing; several leathern amulets suspended from his neck composed his ornaments; he was armed with a Moorish gun, a poniard, which was attached by a cord to his side, and a powder-horn. He was of a middling stature, but his head, naturally small, appeared monstrous, by the enormous quantity of hair which covered it; these hairs falling over his ears and cheeks produced the effect of a multitude of knots of black wool, hanging in great disorder; a beard extremely long and bushy concealed, in the same manner, the lower part of his visage; so that, to give an idea of the figure of this personage, we must represent to ourselves, (if this singular supposition can be made,) two small eyes, lively and menacing, issuing out of the fleece of a black ram. I have drawn his portrait from recollection, but I have in vain endeavoured to render an exact resemblance of his frightful figure.

The presence of this man was not less calculated to remove

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our fears, than those who composed the rest of the band. However, I have reason to believe that these savages are more likely to inspire terror on a first interview, than they are really formidable for their courage. When a little calm had succeeded to the first alarm, which we naturally felt, we found that the number of miserable beings, in whose power we had fallen, was not so great as we at first had imagined. Had they not carried away our arms, which prudence had dictated to us to abandon, we should have been enabled, when we were all assembled, to have defended ourselves against these barbarians, but in the confusion and trouble of our ideas, was it not natural to suppose that their numbers would increase? let us rather regard, as the most favourable circumstance for us, that none of them had fallen under our blows; the death of one of these brigands would have become the signal of our own, and we could not have escaped a vengeance, which they so often gave us cause to dread, when we even opposed no resistance to them.

Abandoned to the bitterness of our reflections, we attentively considered the activity which prevailed around us. The women and children, who, at intervals, suspended their insults, were busied in arranging places where they were to erect tents. In the meantime, every one placed on the ground which he reserved for himself, the share which he had received of the spoils. The first tent which had been erected was that near to which we had passed the first night. It was occupied, as I have already said, by the family of Fairry, who appeared to exercise a kind of command over the others. However, he enjoyed no other apparent prerogative; no exterior sign distinguished him. The family, independent of the chief, consisted of his wife, who was ugly and of a peevish disposition, and five children, three of whom, although still young, were the most insupportable and disgusting beings which can possibly be imagined; a horrible scurf almost entirely covered their bodies, and the wickedness of their character was inconceivable. These children, from whom we could never free ourselves, and of whom we dared not complain, were not the least of our evils. In the very few moments of repose which they left us, they continually teased us, threw themselves upon us, and pinched us unceasingly; and, what will hardly be believed, they came to snatch even from our lips the little nourishment which we could procure; they spat in our faces, and, in this way, amused the circle which curiosity and hatred had constantly collected together around us. The observation of one of our poets with respect to children is thus very true: "This age is without pity." The eldest son of Fairry, who was nearly 14 years of age, appeared better disposed towards us; had he been as malicious as his younger brothers, how much more should we

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have had to endure! We were also tolerably well treated by the eldest daughter of Fairry, whose appearance was more agreeable, and her disposition milder, than all the rest of the women. As to the mother, far from resembling her in any thing, she was a real fury, and made known to us her will, with a knife in her hand. But he who made us feel the weight of our slavery the most was a man of the name of Mohiet, who shared the tent of Fairry. This man, whose figure was as revolting as that of Sinne, was the same who first appeared to us on-board the vessel after our shipwreck, and whom we had loaded with attentions and caresses. Having now quitted entirely the mask of benevolence, he expressed, by a ferocious smile, every time he regarded us, the joy which he felt at having deceived us.

In the extremity to which we were reduced, it was necessary to submit with resignation to the services which were required of us. Moheleda, the eldest daughter of Fairry, who testified a preference for M. Chalumeau, chose him to accompany her for the purpose of digging for water, of which we were much in want. This water, which is salt and brackish, and can only be drank in the ardour of a devouring thirst, acquires in these barren and burning regions a value which gold can never attain. In order to procure it, it was necessary to go a great way from the place where we were, and dig a hole five or six fathoms deep, from whence it issued through the sand, which answered the purpose of filtering. It thus lost a part of its saltness, but the bitterness, which nothing could take off, made it always a detestable drink.

During the absence of M. Chalumeau I was employed, as well as my other companions, in preparing the food of the Arabs; they put a considerable quantity of flour and butter into a large pot, which was placed over a very ardent fire, and our task was to stir this mixture, in order to make a kind of pottage. This employment, which the great heat rendered very painful, would have been much less so could we have hoped for a share of the repast; but we soon perceived that we could not reckon upon it. The hope of ameliorating our fate, alone induced us to submit to so degrading a servitude; we acted mechanically, without even reflecting on the singularity of a situation which reduced us to serve such miserable beings, only fifteen days after having quitted the most civilized country on earth.

We were plunged in the most profound stupor, when we were roused by piercing cries, which were heard at a short distance; it was Moheleda, who, having left M. Chalumeau behind, returned towards us with all haste. She wept, tore her hair, and exhibited the most violent despair, crying with all her force, "the Mussulmen! the Mussulmen!" It is impossible to describe the alarm

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which was immediately communicated around us. All the women set up the most dreadful yells; and, taking with them their children, fled precipitately towards the sea. The Arabs abandoned the pillage of the vessel, threw themselves one after another into the sea, swam to the shore, seized all their arms, and placed themselves in an attitude of defence, uttering cries of defiance and provocation, then leaping and capering on the sand. This sudden terror was caused by the appearance of two Arabs, whom they perceived in the desert, between the hills of sand, and who were proceeding towards them with all the swiftness of their camels.

The barbarians, in whose power we were, and who belonged to the tribe of the Ouadlims,* mistook the Arabs, whom they perceived, for Mussulmen, with whom they are frequently at war, and whose frequent incursions they fear, especially when they come with the intention to plunder. It was these Mussulmen, of whom they wished to excite in us so much dread, when we arrived on shore. But we had been already so cruelly deceived, and mal-treated, that we had nothing worse to apprehend from any other description of savages. Thus, we were quite indifferent as to the consequences with respect to them; we even would have turned against them, had a favourable opportunity presented itself.

It was thus a false alarm: the two Arabs were no sooner within pistol-shot, than cries of joy succeeded those of fury. Instead of Mussulmen, they recognised only friends, who, being informed of the shipwreck, had come to partake of the spoils. The new visitors were in fact soon united to the rest for this purpose, and after many profound bows, they all prepared to return to the vessel, which they had so unseasonably quitted.

But they would not recommence their visit without taking us with them. It appeared that the first object of their search was to discover money, and imagining that all the cases must contain some, they summoned us to deliver them up. How much was the idea (so prevalent in Europe), confirmed in my mind at this moment, that the great passion of the Arabs is for silver and gold! "*Argeono! argeono!*" † cried they to us, with

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* The Ouadlims commonly inhabit the environs of Cape Bojadore, in the neighbourhood of the Mongearts, with whom they live in tolerable peace. Notwithstanding their wandering mode of life, they rarely pass the limits, towards the north, which an habitual misunderstanding has established between them and the Mussulmen.

† I know not whether my supposition is well or ill founded, but it seems to me that this word *argeono* is derived from some European language; consequently, the Ouadlims must have had previous relationship with Christians.

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fury, endeavouring to drag us along with them. They first addressed themselves to me, commanding me to accompany them. I, for a long time, refused; but their menaces became so furious, that it was impossible to resist any longer, and I was forced to follow them, as well as the captain, Messrs. Souza and Chalumeau. The sailor, who had received a severe contusion in his leg, was dispensed from serving, and M. Mexia, who was in a state of great suffering, lay extended on the shore. In the state of extreme lassitude to which he was reduced, both from his age and infirmities, he was deaf to all the injunctions which were addressed to him, and was no less so to the rage and entreaties of the women, who were so exasperated against him, that many of them threw their knives in his face.

I was much more embarrassed than my companions, because I knew not how to swim, and I thought that the distance between the vessel and the shore would not permit me to wade; but my situation was so dreadful, that no dangers which might put a period to my sufferings, would induce me to shrink from them. I therefore threw my clothes upon the sand, and went into the sea fully convinced that I should never reach the vessel; in fact, I lost my ground several times, but at last I got on-board, after a great deal of difficulty, which was greatly increased by the impetuosity of the sea.

A revolting spectacle now awaited us; savages, with hatchets in their hands, were running over every corner of the ship, and breaking open all the cases without distinction: the hold in consequence exhibited such a disorder, that it was almost impossible to get to it; nevertheless, they threw us down, demanding with loud cries, "*Argeono! Argeono!*" which was the first object of all their desires. In vain we assured them, that there was no more in the vessel, that all we possessed was in their power; they thought we were deceiving them, and those who had not received any in the first division of the spoils, were now the most furious. Being unable to satisfy their wishes, their rage took another direction. Two pigs, which were still on-board, presented themselves to their view; they then set up dreadful yells, and pursued these unfortunate animals with all the weapons, which they could lay hold of, and, without daring to touch them, they wounded them in a thousand places. These animals, who languished for two days before they died, inundated the deck of the ship with the blood which flowed from their wounds, and greatly augmented, by their screams, the horror of the spectacle before our eyes. It was with equal fury, although for a different cause, that these savages, (whose existence is almost a prodigy in a land which furnishes them, it may be said, with no kind of food) threw themselves like famished beasts on

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the provisions which they succeeded in discovering. The cargo of the vessel partly consisted of flour and biscuits. They divided the booty in such disorder, that we were several times nearly falling victims to their extreme eagerness. During three hours, I was placed at the bottom of the hold in a situation which deprived me of air, and of the possibility of breathing, and obliged to distribute large quantities of flour and biscuits. When I was permitted to leave this situation, in which I fainted twice, a quantity of water issued from all the pores of my body with extraordinary violence. This extreme perspiration, joined to the flour which was sprinkled over my whole body, covered me with a paste from head to foot. As soon as I perceived this, on mounting upon deck, I could not refrain from smiling, notwithstanding the horror of my situation; but it may be easily conceived that gaiety had no part in this natural feeling.

As for the rest, I soon got rid of this covering by a mode which our physicians would not fail to pronounce mortal, with so violent a perspiration. We were obliged to throw ourselves into the sea, in order to transport to the shore every thing which the savages took from the vessel. The women waited for us with an impatience which they expressed by furious cries. I believe it would be difficult to give an idea of what we now suffered, in the service of such masters. On one hand the enormous weight with which we were loaded; on the other, the difficulty of the passage, on account of the violence of the tide, made us believe we should never gain the shore.

The rest of this horrible day, the second since our shipwreck, was spent in continually going to and from the vessel, loaded in the same way and suffering the same torments. Towards evening we had permission to repose ourselves; we then went to join our companions, who had been exempted from these overwhelming labours; but who testified, for all that we had endured, a grief equal to our own.

It may easily be imagined what another cruel night we had to pass. We had had nothing to eat during the whole day, but what little biscuit we could secretly get hold of; and for drink, we had only that brackish water which was so repugnant to us. We again agreed to sleep near each other, in order to avoid a surprise, which we had reason to fear, from the apparent intentions of these savages, and their extreme attention in observing us. We passed, however, this second night like the first, having equally to suffer from a rigorous cold, which was rendered more sensible by the heat of the day, during which the ardour of the sun had appeared to us insupportable.

The following day (June 2d) by sun-rise, we were summoned

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to resume our labours in the unloading of the vessel. The Arabs had already thrown a great quantity of casks into the sea; these we were obliged to roll up a hill of sand, of great height, which was not the least painful part of our labour. The heat was so excessive, that I never experienced the like; I was therefore unable to resist it, and fainted away on the shore. At the redoubled cries of the barbarians I revived, and was forced in the most brutal manner to continue my work. At this moment M. Souza, who shared with me the same treatment, earnestly entreated me to escape with him the following night:—"We shall endeavour," said he to me, "to obtain, each of us, a bottle of water and some biscuits, and penetrate farther into the desert. Let me, therefore, entreat you to fly: perhaps we shall find out some means of safety. Here our death is certain; for I feel I can no longer resist the labour which is required of us." I partook of his anxiety, but I could not, without the liveliest sorrow, separate myself from my companions, and I saw, besides, the impossibility of deceiving the watch which was continually set upon us.

Our first task being finished, we were again obliged to proceed to the vessel, as on the preceding day; however, it was much nearer the shore. This circumstance afforded the women an opportunity of satisfying their curiosity. They advanced into the sea, until the waters reached up to their waists; but when they got as far as the vessel, they knew not how to climb up. Then commenced one of those scenes the most ridiculous to relate, the remembrance of which still affords me a subject of merriment. We were obliged to receive them one after the other on our backs and shoulders, in order that they might reach the edge of the vessel. They placed themselves upon us without ceremony, and afterwards made use of their hands to mount on-board. When it is considered that they were the most revolting creatures in the world, and almost destitute of clothing, my readers will have no difficulty in believing that it was a very singular species of servitude for us, to be made use of as footstools to these women. It appeared to them, no doubt, very diverting, for they took great delight in it, manifesting their joy by the rudest and most insulting bursts of laughter which can well be imagined.

When these women were in the vessel, they augmented still more the inconceivable disorder which prevailed there during the preceding day. It was no longer possible to advance a step without treading on the remains of two thousand bottles, which they had broken, in their rage for destruction. I know not, as our feet were naked, how we could avoid receiving serious wounds from all this broken glass, especially as we were

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forced to go wherever these negroes chose to send us, threatening us always with their knives, with which they would undoubtedly have struck us, had we made the least refusal. However, it was not death which I feared; on the contrary, it was the object of all my wishes. I confess, (and this was one of the moments of feebleness, which I have sometimes shown in the course of my misfortune) that the greatest despair at that time took possession of my soul. I was on the point of throwing myself from a part of the mast into the sea, and not having done so, was owing to the utter impossibility of accomplishing my purpose, in consequence of the continual balancing of the vessel. But I was so alarmed at the horrid prospect which I had before me, that I regarded self-destruction as the only way left of relieving me from the most dreadful treatment which it is possible for man to experience.

Nevertheless, this day was not to terminate without an event, which led me to think that the period of our death had at last arrived, and that we were all about to be sacrificed to a hatred, on the part of our enemies, which we supposed was stronger than any interest they might have in preserving our lives. Towards four o'clock in the afternoon, we remarked great agitation among them; they had assembled in a group, with arms in their hands, were disputing among themselves, regarding us at the same time with looks of fury, and evidently appeared to be discussing the fate which awaited us. These debates lasted more than an hour. With eyes fixed upon them, observing all their movements, we anxiously waited to see what part they were about to take. We all imagined we were going to be shot, and in this cruel moment, the object of our greatest uneasiness was, that having no balls, and loading their fire-locks with sand and pebbles, they would cause us to suffer horribly. Our only regret was, lest a speedy termination should not be put to our sufferings.

I experienced all the anguish of this situation, when Hamet, (the Arab who had first commenced the battle, the same whom Captain Schault had thrown down, and who appeared one of the most furious) came towards me and desired me to follow him. I then no longer doubted but that my last hour was come; I turned towards my companions, and bade them an eternal adieu. The latter being firmly persuaded that they would soon follow me, were in the attitude of the most lively grief, and their eyes were mournfully directed towards me, to see what fate was reserved for them.

Hamet brought me to a part of the shore, about 300 feet from the place where I was. On reaching this spot, which appeared arranged for our execution, I remarked three large swords

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(taken from our ship) lying on a kind of bench, which they had erected with planks. They desired me to kneel, and an Arab held a pistol behind my head. In this dreadful moment I expressed, by gestures, my desire to be killed by a shot from a musket, and pointed out that which the horrible Sinné held in his hand, and which had formerly been my own. But Hamet, after having raised me, desired me to sit down on the bench. Then, of my own accord, I took off my cravat and coat, and, recommending myself to God, awaited my doom. During more than two hours, I remained with my head downwards, expecting every moment the fatal shot, which was to put an end to all my misery.

However, these savages appeared to have no other intention but to inspire us with terror, by the mere display of an execution, as they desired me to rise, and sent me back to my companions. Perhaps they only wished to punish us for a momentary resistance, or to show us what we had to fear should we not remain subjected to their will. At least, such were our conjectures at the close of this mournful scene.

I ought also to confess the feebleness with which I was seized at the termination of this severe trial. After I had joined my companions, the Arabs called the sailor, and ordered him to make a packet of the arms which had appeared to me to be the instruments of my execution. These arms were immediately carried into the desert, and I saw them taken away. I then supposed that my execution would take place some time later, and that the barbarians had only, by a vain representation, pronounced my judgment. My imagination, filled with this idea, which long tormented me, was now inflamed beyond measure. At the middle of night my head was so completely turned, that I again formed the project of throwing myself into the sea. My resolution was taken, and I communicated it to M. Mexia, near whom I was lying: in vain he tried to calm me, by all the reasons which presented themselves to his mind—in vain he poured out the most prudent exhortations. "My choice is made," said I to him; "in a quarter of an hour I shall no longer exist; for it is not possible to sustain such misery any longer." Several times, in the extreme agitation which accompanied my fatal resolution, I rose up and was about to rush into the floods which roared at my feet. Nothing, I thought, could prevent me!—But the active watching of my tormentors saved my life; perceiving the movement I had made, they observed me more attentively, and it is to their vigilance alone that I am indebted for not having recourse to an extremity which was to me the more dreadful, as my sentiments entirely disavowed it.

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CHAPTER III.

Unfortunate situation of the sufferers.—Labour to which they are employed.—Excessive heat.—Inactivity of the savages. — Their rigorous observance of the precepts of Mahometanism.—Their horror for pork.—Their voracity for flour and butter. — Remains of the cargo on the shore.—The sufferers are separated.—They are obliged to cut down the masts of the vessel.—They serve as surgeons to the savages.

To the dreadful and fatiguing agitation to which I was continually a prey, succeeded a profound dejection, which procured me a short repose. After the first assaults of misfortune, the mind is accustomed to the greatest trials; thus, a momentary resignation came to my relief. I still, however, preserved the fixed idea of destroying myself. Indeed, how was it possible for me to think otherwise? We had no motive to induce us to expect our future deliverance. No relation of misfortunes similar to ours, had ever reached our knowledge. Our future prospects then, viewing them in the most favourable light, were reduced to a slavish existence, miserably dragged out in the desert, provided we had sufficient strength to support a treatment and privations unexampled in the history of human misery.

The reader would no doubt take more interest in our unfortunate situation, were he to enter into the particular situation of each individual, and represent to himself a part of his sacrifices and troubles.

M. Mexia, a man of very distinguished talent, lost, from the effect of our catastrophe, a numerous collection of manuscripts, the fruit of long research in Europe—manuscripts which supplied to him the loss of a fortune, of which he had been deprived by other misfortunes. Endowed with very superior talents, and possessing a mind stored with all the information derived from the distinguished society in which he had moved, M. Mexia, at the age of 60 years, found himself the slave of ignorance and brutality. Ah! if ever this narrative falls into his hands, let him know that at the moment in which I am now writing it, I attribute entirely to the excess of his bodily and mental sufferings, the numerous differences which an extremely irritable temper often provoked among us, and that if I recal them to mind in the course of this work, it is only to give an idea of the miseries of all kinds to which we were exposed. Unfortunately, it is the most common effect of deplorable situations, to engender sentiments of animosity among the victims of the same misfortune;

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each seems in some sort to attribute to his companions the excess of his misery, and instead of seeking to diminish the weight of it, by reciprocal consolations, they augment it by bitter reproaches and the most cruel divisions.

I owe it to justice to say, that M. Scheult uniformly displayed a mildness of disposition, and an equality of temper which were rarely at variance with each other; nevertheless, his troubles were not less than ours. Having been but a short time married, to a woman whom he adored, and by whom he had one child, he found himself separated from them for ever. He had, besides, the misery of appearing in her eyes as the author of all our misfortunes. M. Souza, who was of Portuguese extraction, had left behind him at Nantes, where he was naturalized and married, a numerous family, of whom he was the sole support. For more than forty years he had traversed the seas, and had always been fortunate in his frequent voyages; but now, at the moment of aspiring after repose, he suffered his first shipwreck on a coast, where he was destined to leave the fruit of his accumulated savings. The despair of our sailor Affilé was truly affecting. This brave man always wept on thinking of his wife, and reflecting that, by the loss of his small property, she was deprived of the feeble resources which she might have expected after his death.

M. Chalumeau was the man to whom our melancholy fate appeared to have made the least impression; he had lost his father and mother, and was unmarried: but he left at Nantes several brothers, and the affecting union of this family was so celebrated, that they were cited in that city, as models of the tenderest friendship. Unfortunate young man! he was destined to suffer the most cruel death, far from that country where he was idolized. Having but recently returned from an English prison, where he had languished for the space of eight years, he was miserably to perish, at the age of twenty-seven, in the spring of a life which was embellished by the rarest and most distinguished qualities.

If my companions of misfortune had to resign themselves to so many painful sacrifices, mine were not less grievous. I left in Europe a numerous circle of friends, and a beloved family, whose tenderness knew no bounds. If the idea of being separated from them cruelly tormented me, I was not less afflicted at having abandoned my first vessel. In this respect, I had not the consolation experienced by a misfortune, which is the consequence of a first determination. In my own eyes, it was my will more than my destiny, which had decided my fate. My imagination represented to me the vessel in which I ought to have sailed, tranquilly pursuing its course. I thought of the

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family who were on-board of her, and from whom I had separated; I fancied them occupying themselves about me, without any uneasiness, and feeling assured that I should speedily join them.

I cannot omit these reflections and details, which wander a little from my narrative; but when we have suffered much, we feel a desire of communicating to others a part of the sensations which we have experienced.

Day after day, from the time of our shipwreck, passed on in the same manner; always a prey to the same vexations, and always subjected to the same labour. Every morning by break of day, at the time when the Arabs, prostrate on the sand, were addressing their prayers to God and their prophet, we used to go to the sea-shore in order to gather shell-fish, which, for eighteen days, was almost our only food. Towards six o'clock we were called to our usual labour, which lasted as long as there were any spoils left to share amongst them. At low water, we brought away our loads from the vessel to the shore; and during the rest of the day we were employed in various occupations: among others, that of stretching on a burning sand the pieces of linen which were found in quantities on-board the vessel, and which it was necessary to dry, as they had been completely wet by the sea.

The division of the spoil was effected every evening, under the presidency of Fairry, in the midst of yells and disputes, which often made his authority doubtful. Each proprietor of the pillaged goods went afterwards to a particular part of the desert, in order to deposit his portion. Several camels, which had recently arrived with fresh visitors, sufficed for these nocturnal convoys, and it was our part to load the backs of these animals (who were sometimes very untractable) with the goods which were about to be interred. In order to avoid a surprise from the Mussulmen, the Ouadlims would often hasten to bury, on the spot where we were encamped, those objects which were difficult to be transported. We were frequently forced to dig holes so deep, that from 20 to 30 barrels of flour were deposited in them, and these we were obliged to roll with incredible exertion.

I know not how we were enabled to resist so painful a labour in the weak state to which we were reduced. Under a vertical sun, and in that burning atmosphere, we were the only active beings. All around us appeared struck with death: the excessive heat commanded inactivity. The savages reposed under tents towards noon, and the small number of animals which surrounded us, consisting of a few camels, and some lean and meager goats (fixed, as it were, to the place where they stood, being incapable of moving about) appeared as if deprived of existence, and remained without movement the greatest part of

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the day, with their heads inclined towards a burning and barren sand.*

For us, who were strangers to this terrible region, we could only aspire for repose at the moment in which the coolness of night arrived, to render us strength to support so many fatigues; but our poor nourishment of shell-fish was but little calculated to restore our strength.

The Ouadlims appropriated to themselves all the provisions of the vessel, and it was very rarely that we could secretly carry off a few biscuits. Happily, a part of the cargo consisted in excellent wine, which we partook of occasionally, and it was no doubt to this beneficent liquor, that we had strength to support our former fatigue. The exactness with which these miserable Mussulmen followed the precepts of their law, prevented them from drinking wine, and we considered this as a very fortunate circumstance. Accordingly M. Chalumeau having proposed to them to taste it, we reproached him for his imprudence, as being likely to compromise our fate.

But if they did not drink our wine, they unfeelingly wished to deprive us of what little fresh water there remained in the vessel, and endeavoured by all means to confine us to the obnoxious water which was found in the environs of the sea. However, Captain Scheult had, fortunately, secured a quantity of fresh water, by pouring it into some large wine-bottles; and, by adding a little wine to give it a colour, we thus preserved a pretty good supply.

It is a subject worthy of remark, that men so brutish as the Ouadlims, should be such rigorous observers of the practices of their religion. For instance, nothing could induce them to eat pork. There were on-board some barrels of salt meat; but as they could not distinguish that which was the object of their aversion, they always implicitly relied on our decisions, and they kept continually sending to us to know whether such a piece was beef or pork. The impossibility of making ourselves understood, gave rise to a singular language between us. They imitated the cries of these animals, and we were obliged to reply to them in a similar manner, either by the bellowing of oxen, or by the grunting of pigs. The latter animals were held in such horror, that frequently, in the fear of exasperating them against us, we were obliged to refrain from eating pork altogether.

They were far from having the same aversion for flour, which they sought after with as much avidity as they did for money; of butter, also, they were so ravenous, that it never failed becom-

* The dried roots which sprung up here and there in the sands, were the only support for these animals.

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ing the cause of some disputes among them. From the manner in which they used it, some idea may be formed of their extraordinary taste. I have seen five or six of these savages put into a pot more than twenty pounds of butter, with less than one pound of flour, make a paste of it, and eat it all up with their hands.

However, it was not astonishing that men, who were plunged into so complete a state of barbarism, should, in the division of the cargo, give a preference for what was calculated to nourish them, and disdain entirely the most precious objects. In a soil which was so entirely unproductive, they felt the want of articles of the first necessity, and their extreme ignorance prevented them from feeling the value of those of which they had no idea. A button of my coat had as much value in their eyes, as the diamonds which they had taken from us; and I have seen dragging in the sand, for many days, quantities of lace to the value of a thousand pounds, which they at last employed in tying up sacks. But no description can give any exact idea of the spectacle which this unfortunate shore presented to us, covered with so many objects which our plunderers had rejected, and which brought to our recollection all the horrors of our situation.

The sufferings which we had endured for the last ten days, seemed to threaten us with a speedy dissolution, and we imagined it was not possible to suffer more. But misery has its degrees; and when we think we have arrived at the highest pitch, there are still greater miseries in store for us. We were about to make a cruel experience of this truth. About the 9th of June, after the labours of the day, and at the moment of the division of the spoil, Fairry desired us to advance into the middle of a circle of Arabs which was formed around us, and unfeelingly announced to us that we were about to be separated. At this unexpected intelligence we expostulated; but all in vain. They disputed about the possession of our persons, as they did with our property, that is to say, amidst cries and yells. The division was as follows: Messrs. Mexia, Souza, and Chalumeau, remained the property of Fairry. M. Scheult became that of an Arab named Mahomet; and the sailor and myself fell into the power of him whom I most dreaded, of that Hamet who had always testified so much hatred for me. He immediately brought me to his tent, and the reception which I met with from his family, proved that I had reason to regret my first master. The mother of this Arab, as soon as she saw me, rushed upon me, and passing a knife twenty times over my throat, she evinced, with all the expression of a ferocious joy, the pleasure which she should experience in depriving me of life.

Were it possible for me not to preserve an eternal recollection

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of that melancholy day which assigned to us different masters, a circumstance which happened to me at that period will always recal it to my memory. Hamet had seen a fowl fall into the sea, which the Arabs had chased out of the hold, where it had been concealed for several days. He instantly desired to have it in his possession. "Bring it to me immediately, Christian!" cried he to me with fury. I represented to him, that being unable to swim, I could not execute his order, without the risk of being drowned. In fact, the fowl had got to a great distance from the vessel, and the sea, being very rough, the waves were breaking against the sides of the vessel with great violence. But the poniard of Hamet, with which I was instantly threatened, rendered any observation useless. However death, under whatever form it appeared, was now indifferent to me; I braved this new peril, and after having swallowed a great quantity of salt-water, I was fortunate enough to succeed. I brought him back the fowl, half drowned: he seized hold of it and killed it with his knife, turning his face towards the west. Being a faithful observer of the laws of his prophet, he would not suffer a Christian to lay hands upon it in order to kill it; but as soon as he had killed it himself, he threw it in my face with disdain, and made a sign for me to pluck it. It seems the Koran is less severe for this second operation, which I performed entirely to his satisfaction.

So great a submission on our part made the Arabs hope that we might equally succeed in bringing down the top-gallant sails, which they had long envied, and which they had not yet been able to procure. They instantly gave us the order to climb up the masts in order to unloose them. These miserable wretches imagined none of us could be ignorant of the tackling of the vessel, and viewing us only as the passive instruments of their will, they were insensible to our observations, and consequently had recourse to their usual menaces. I know not how we could, this time, have avoided the effects of their rage, had we not hit upon the only practicable course, that of cutting down the masts. For more than two hours we employed our hatchets with redoubled force; they at last fell, and with such a crash, that I was stunned with the noise, which was long repeated by hitherto unknown echoes in the midst of the hills of sand.

During the remainder of this evening we were less tormented than ordinary, which was perhaps owing to the interested anxiety we displayed to be useful to the Arabs. A number of them having received serious wounds in the feet and legs, from walking on the broken glass, formerly alluded to, and being persuaded, notwithstanding the disdain with which we inspired them, of the superiority of our skill, they came to us to beg that

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we would cure them, and this evening was entirely employed in dressing their wounds. Those even who had absolutely received no injury, wished to pass under our hands. They surrounded us, crying: *Tabib, tabib,* (Doctor, doctor,) and indicated to us, by making the most ridiculous contortions, the various pains which they felt. Wishing to turn this circumstance to our advantage, we sought to give ourselves as much importance as possible. Each of us effected his cure; but the remedy was simple. A bottle of lavender-water, which we found on the shore, and which they had disdained, served us as a general remedy. So long as it lasted, it was used for all disorders, and our reputation of doctors, which was established from henceforth, became, by multiplied consultations, the source of much annoyance.

CHAPTER IV.

Arrival of the Bedouin Arabs, or Mussulmen.—Their prayer in the desert.—The Mussulmen seize upon part of the spoil of the Ouadelims.—They set fire to the vessel.—A ship approaches the coast; momentary hope.—The sufferers depart with the chief of the Mussulmen.—March in the desert.—Unheard-of fatigues in the quicksands.—Absolute want of water.—They dig in the sand and find a source.

The next day presented a new scene. On the morning of the 10th of June, when the first rays of the sun were beginning to gild the hills of sand, which formed the half of our horizon, we perceived troops of Bedouin Arabs approaching towards us. The brilliant display of their arms, which were reflected by the rays of the sun, discovered them at a distance, and the swiftness of their camels soon brought them amongst us. Each camel carried two Arabs: the first seated on a small saddle, in the manner of European women, and the second in the usual way of a man on horseback. All these camels arrived in succession, at full gallop, suddenly halted, and slowly kneeling down, deposed their masters, who immediately put fetters on their legs to prevent their going away.

These different troops, to the number of twelve, and each composed of twelve Arabs, took up their station one after the other: loaded camels afterwards came up, and before the close of the day, the surrounding places had all the appearance of a camp. These Arabs had been to the environs of Cape Bojadore, for the purpose of seeking food for their families, and on their

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return, hearing of our shipwreck, they were induced to go out of their way, by the hope of sharing in the spoils.

These Arabs, whose appearance so strongly contrasted with that of the Ouadlims, were no other than those Mussulmen so much dreaded by the latter. Their arrival caused them a gloomy terror, but their numbers forbade all resistance; thus, notwithstanding their repugnance, they gave them a friendly reception, accompanied by a certain respect, which evinced their inferiority. They were obliged to share with them the portion of goods which they had not been able to bury, and that which was still in the vessel. Some days previous they would have defended themselves to the last extremity, sooner than consent to such a step; but they experienced a lively satisfaction at having buried in the desert nearly three-fourths of the cargo, and this, it appears to me, is the only motive which can explain a resignation which their first dispositions were far from indicating.

As soon as the Mussulmen had arranged every thing to their satisfaction, they prepared for prayer. The divers troops all assembled in one line, and he who appeared as their chief, having placed himself in front, cried aloud several times: *Allah akbar*, (God is great). Then all the Arabs, in respectful silence, made their ablutions with the sand, prostrating themselves at the same time towards the west. Our savages themselves, forming a different troop, prostrated themselves in a similar manner; their wives, who could not mix with them, kept themselves apart near their tents, and observed the same devotional ceremony. Thus on all sides the most barbarous people on earth, were addressing their prayers to God; and we, unfortunate Christains, could only pray internally: we dared not ostensibly implore that Providence, which was our sole support, and we were obliged to appear insensible to the solemnity of a spectacle which so lively affected us. Thus, as long as I live, I shall think I hear the sonorous voice of this chief of the Mussulmen, troubling the silence of the desert to call to prayer, and the devotion of those savages will never cease to be the object of my astonishment. The homage rendered to the Divinity is always stamped with the mark of his grandeur; but how imposing it becomes when it is offered up in the most barren regions of nature, by savages assembled together without altars, and respectfully invoking the name of the Creator in the midst of that vast temple of nature, which best announces his almighty power and majesty!

This spectacle made me hope, I confess, for a more favourable treatment on the part of the newly arrived Arabs. It seemed to me that a religion, however different from our own, ought to have inspired a sentiment of compassion for our fate; but I

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was soon deceived. The general prayer was no sooner terminated, than we became the objects of their insults, and we had an infinite trouble to avoid being stripped of every article of clothing.

However, their chief, to whom they paid great deference, interposed his authority, and delivered us for the moment from their importunity. The name of this chief was Sidy Hamet. He was well known by the Ouadlims, and his power extended a great way into the desert. The reputation which he had acquired as an expounder of the law, by a particular study of the Koran, caused him to be respected even by the most savage tribes, and those who were at war with his own. Besides the considerable part which he received of the spoil, the Ouadlims made him many presents, by way of homage. Among these were our watches, and a very fine telescope which had belonged to me.

The vessel being now nearly empty, it was no longer thought to be an object of temptation for the Mussulmen; nevertheless, they drove away the Ouadlims and precipitated themselves with joy upon the remains of this unfortunate vessel, and on the numerous fragments which covered the shore. The hold, which was almost entirely filled with salt-water, still contained more than 5000 bottles of wine; but the Mussulmen, as insensible to this discovery as the Ouadlims, resolved, in order to obtain the copper and iron-work, to set fire to the body of the vessel, the masts being already destroyed.

This last and mournful scene took place the next morning. As soon as it was dawn we were forced to get up, and to set fire to our own vessel. Towards evening the flames rose up in whirlwinds from the room where we had placed the combustibles, and ascended into the air, amidst shouts of joy, which redoubled our grief. It was not, however, a new loss we had to deplore; we had already acquired the conviction, that this vessel could no longer afford us any resources, even from its remains. But the habit of seeing it, made us in some measure regard it as a companion. The sight of it, by the remembrance of our short passage, seemed to diminish the distance which separated us from our native country. When it had ceased to exist, when all, even to the last plank, had become the prey of the flames, and when there remained no more vestiges of our wreck, all hopes of return appeared for ever vanished, and our destruction seemed certain.

On the following day the vessel was still burning. Stretched upon the edge of the shore I attentively considered the progress of the fire. M. Chalumeau, who was by my side, seized me suddenly by the hand, and with an agitation which at first I did

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not understand, said to me in a low voice; "Do not speak, do not show any surprize, but look there! Do you see that vessel coming right towards us?" My eyes were instantly directed to the ocean, and across the clouds of smoke which proceeded from our vessel, I perceived, at the distance of two leagues, a ship advancing in full sail towards the coast. At this view all my blood recoiled towards my heart, and an extraordinary trembling agitated all my members. That hope which had vanished was again restored, and both, trembling with emotion, turned our eyes towards the desert, that we might not excite suspicions by too marked an attention. "No doubt," said we to each other, "our crew have not perished; they have met with a ship at sea, they have mentioned our misfortune, and they are now come to rescue us." How easily we give way to illusion! How we are led to believe that which we desire with so much ardour! If the sensation which carried us back so transiently towards happiness was a real delirium, I leave it to be imagined what was the impression we felt the moment we found ourselves deceived. No! death itself could not have affected me more! That ship which we had supposed was coming to our relief, soon changed its course, and destroyed a hope too easily conceived. It tranquilly and gradually disappeared, without those persons who were on-board ever once doubting that they left upon a coast, which they so nearly approached, the most unfortunate of beings, and these perhaps countrymen, and even friends!

On reflection, however, we were fully convinced of the impossibility of escaping from the hands of those barbarians who retained us in their power; all the fleets in the world could not have taken us from them, seeing that the coast, as I have already said, is almost entirely inaccessible.

Nevertheless, it appeared to us that we were soon destined to see a term put to our uncertainty, or, at least, that we were not likely to remain much longer in the same place. The motive which had until then retained us on the shore, no longer existed, and in our eyes we were now only become an useless burden upon men who had no more labour to impose upon us.

Towards the 16th of June, we observed a movement among the Arabs, which rendered our approaching departure probable; at least, a determination was about to be taken respecting us. A lively agitation again prevailed among the Ouadlims, and by their continually turning towards us, we judged we were the cause of it. Frequent disputes took place between them and the Mussulmen; the latter, and particularly their chief, became menacing, and evidently appeared to be disputing our possession. At sun-set, a moment after their prayer, all the Arabs

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took to their arms, and at a certain distance from the tent which served us for shelter, they held a general council, which lasted the whole night, amidst cries and vociferations of all kinds.

On the morning of the 17th, by break of day, the Ouadlims and the Mussulmen, who appeared to have agreed, ran in great numbers to our tent, and announced to us that we were about to depart with Sidy Hamet. That chief, in fact, presented himself a few minutes afterwards, and commanded us to follow him. Had we now become his property by purchase, as he himself informed me some time later; or did he carry us away by main-force, which I am rather inclined to believe? On this subject I can give no certain information; but the result was the same for us; and we prepared for a departure, the recollection of which will always be present to my mind, on account of the singular facility with which we made the melancholy preparations.

Our greatest embarrassment was how we should be able to walk. M. Mexia was so feeble that he could hardly stand upon his feet. I think I still see the barbarous Mohiet brutally commanding him to rise, in order to take his departure. He accompanied this last injunction by an act of violence, in tearing off his cloak from his shoulders, which left him almost completely naked.* M. Mexia was by no means in a state to support the journey; for the last fifteen days he had not left the place where he laid, and, weakened by his sufferings, he was so changed that he had more the appearance of a skeleton than a man.

We were in hopes that we should have been permitted to mount upon the camels, but they would not allow us. Sidy Hamet departed with us almost alone; he was only accompanied by another Mussulman and three youths from 14 to 15 years of age. He left his troop behind him, in order to terminate, as we thought, the division of the spoils which had not been entirely accomplished, and brought only three camels along with him. One he rode upon himself, and the two others were destined to carry his luggage. They granted us only the favour of placing upon one of the camels two bags, containing some small remains of biscuit, a small quantity of flour, and a piece of bacon, weighing two or three pounds, which we had found upon the sand, where it had lain for several days. We had also, after great difficulty, been able to fill two large bottles of

* If we were not entirely stripped of our clothes by the Ouadlims, perhaps it was owing to the quantity of clothing of all kinds, which they found in the vessel. It was no doubt sufficient for them; had it been otherwise, we should have been stripped naked immediately.

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wine, the use of which had alone prevented us from falling a sacrifice to so many privations.

The bad treatment of our first masters did not prevent us from bidding them adieu. But they received our salutations with that insensibility which they had always shown to us, and by an insulting laugh they appeared to presage new misfortunes.

Sidy Hamet, having then no longer any thing to detain him, gave orders to march. We cast a mournful look upon that unfortunate shore, where we had not yet exhausted all kinds of misery, and slowly proceeded on our journey.

Our march resembled the most mournful funeral procession; being uncertain as to the direction which they were about to take, we had all the attitude of despair, and observed the most solemn silence. Each of us, with the exception of M. Mexia, (who had no strength to carry them) had two bottles of wine suspended from his neck. We hoped that these bottles would also be useful to us, should we have the happiness of meeting with any springs of water; thus, we carried them with the greatest attention, supporting them with our hands, for fear of their knocking one against the other. If, in commencing this painful journey, we were not in a state of perfect nudity, we were not far short of it. What was wanting to one, another might possess, and amongst us all, I believe, we should have had much difficulty in making up a complete suit of clothes.

At a short distance from the shore, it was necessary to climb up a hill, and having reached the summit, we perceived with alarm the immense plains of sand, through which we had to force our way. In this place Sidy Hamet made us halt, while he removed about four hundred yards from us, in order to bury, in a site which he remarked, several articles which he did not wish to take with him. I profited by his absence, in order to examine some papers which the wind had blown to the very spot where we stood. What was my surprize when I perceived among them, the register of my birth, my pass-port, the two last letters which my family had written to me, and another letter from the Marquis of Morialva, in which he recommended me to the first minister of the King of Portugal, at Brazil! To find again the register of my birth in so unexpected a manner, was to me a certain presage of escaping from that death which seemed to threaten us. Having tied up these papers, several of whom might still be useful to us, I put them in my hat, as well as a pencil which I had brought with me. These objects, and some diamonds concealed in my clothes, were all that I had saved from the remains of my shipwreck.

Sidy Hamet, who had been absent nearly half-an-hour, returned, and we immediately continued our march. It was

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about ten o'clock: we proceeded along, at a certain distance from each other, and without uttering a single word. M. Mexia kept lingering behind, and I saw it was impossible for him to continue his painful journey. Being persuaded that he would be the first to sink under our fatigue, I dared not turn my eyes to look upon him; but suddenly I heard a plaintive voice, crying, "Abandon me, comrades, it is no longer possible for me to advance." We immediately stopped, and looking back, we saw him fall down upon the sand, indicating all the signs of the most violent despair. In despair ourselves at such an event, we went towards him, and urged him to use all his efforts to rise. "How can I do so?" replied he to us; "I have no longer any strength left, and I suffer the most dreadful pain." He then stretched himself at full length upon the sand, and with melancholy resignation added: "Go, my friends, I foresee too well, that this desert will be my grave. Leave me, and depart; avoid, if you can, that melancholy fate, from which nothing can now save me. Oh! how dreadful it is to perish in such a country!"

It was impossible for us to consent to so cruel an abandonment. We owed each other reciprocal aid to the last moment; it was therefore necessary for us to find out a way of being relieved from the embarrassment, into which this dreadful circumstance plunged us. Sidy Hamet, who was little affected by it, wished to proceed. We supplicated him to permit our unfortunate companion to be placed on one of his camels. He at first refused, but at last consented only on condition that we should throw out a part of the wine, which we had brought with us, in order to diminish the load of the camel; to which we joyfully consented. Having with difficulty placed M. Mexia on the camel, we were again in a situation to continue our journey. We marched to the north-west until five o'clock in the evening, and after having travelled over a space of twenty miles, we halted for the night, near to a tent which we perceived in the midst of some briers. These bushes, which were only about a foot and a half high, were the first which presented themselves to our view. The tent, surrounded by five or six goats who could hardly breathe, was the property of Hamet, my former master. During his absence it was occupied by women and children, who would fain have maltreated us, had we not been in a situation to revenge their insults. Our conductors reposed at some paces from the tent in the midst of sacs and pannels, which they opposed to the wind. We imitated their example, after partaking of a morsel of our biscuit and a little wine.

Early on the morning of the 18th, Sidy Hamet commanded us to load the camels, and soon afterwards we continued our route. We followed the same direction as on the preceding day. Until

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nine o'clock, the road was not extremely fatiguing; but then we commenced marching in the sand up to our knees, and the sun acquiring all its force, I foresaw that it would soon be impossible to advance further. Nevertheless, we did not halt until mid-day; what horrible repose! marching was perhaps still preferable. The motion of the troop might procure us a little air, but to remain immoveable under a vertical sun, without being able, by the least shade, to screen ourselves from the ardour of its rays; to seek in vain, by digging the sand, for a coolness which we thought to have found in it, and to find only an ardent heat, assuredly this was suffering death a thousand times.

A devouring thirst augmented, besides, the horror of our situation. We had no water! If the Arabs were accustomed to support the privation of it, to us it already became dreadful. At every five minutes we had recourse to our wine, but it was so hot in the bottles, that it could not satisfy the extreme desire we had for a cooling drink. It sustained our strength, but doubled our great thirst. However, Sidy Hamet gave us to understand that, by sun-set, we should find abundance of water; *El ma bezzeif* (plenty of water), said he, at the same time pointing to the perpendicular sun over our heads, and then extending his hands towards the horizon, to indicate the quarter where it set. This assurance preserved our courage, and restored our strength; had it not been for this hope, we should undoubtedly have been overwhelmed at the sight of the appalling spectacle which was not long in presenting itself before our eyes. Towards two o'clock, an immense precipice of sand barred our way. All passage appeared interdicted to us, and the horizon, beyond this abyss, was formed by mountains of quick-sand, which would have appeared almost to mingle themselves with the clouds, had not the remarkable serenity of the sky set off the singular and fantastical variety of their summits.

Never could I have believed it possible to surmount this unforeseen obstacle; M. Chalumeau thought he could easily force his way through; but no sooner had he advanced to the edge of the precipice, than his feet gave way, and he was drawn down to a great distance by the prodigious masses of sand which were agitating around him. He was fortunate enough to extricate himself, but he experienced such a violent shock, that he confessed to us, he thought all was over with him. It appeared that impetuous winds had accumulated, in greater quantity than usual, those heaps of sand which are always found in great abundance in this dangerous passage; our conductors themselves were astonished and seized with alarm: Our camels halted on the brink of the precipice, and Sidy Hamet, who looked around him on all sides, knew not how to extricate himself from our difficult situ-

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ation. At last he had recourse to prayer, and we saw him, with his companion, kneeling upon a hill of sand which overlooked the abyss, where we were going to descend. Their accustomed prayers acquired, in this conjuncture, a new degree of fervour, and to these were added various spiritual songs, which they sang in a loud and piercing voice, and with extraordinary volubility. The image of these two men, prostrate and trembling upon the sands, imploring a passage across this chaos, which represented to me that of all nature, will never be effaced from my memory.

After recommending himself to God and the prophet, Sidy Hamet ventured into a passage which appeared the least dangerous, and commanded us to follow him with the camels. He every where sought out the traces of other camels, which might have preceded us; and, if he discovered any, then he advanced without fear; but we were upwards of three hours in traversing this prodigious mass of sand. The camels fell down so often that we were obliged to unload them more than ten times, to enable them to rise.

Towards six o'clock we at last escaped from this imminent peril; but our fatigue was excessive. We earnestly begged for repose, but our conductors seemed to pay no attention to our complaints, nor to the difficulty we experienced in following them: at seven, we arrived at the foot of a very steep hill; we mounted up one after the other, with infinite pain, but this effort was the last; no human force was capable of making us advance a step further. Panting, and in a state of inconceivable exhaustion, we fell down upon the sand, uttering cries of despair. Sidy Hamet returned towards us, in order to excite us to continue our journey; he thought he could induce us, by repeating several times, *n'sara el mâ ma caue*, (christians, you are in want of water) and by promising that a little further on, we should undoubtedly find some; but all his exhortations were ineffectual, and he was obliged to stop at the very place where we had fallen. In this dreadful day we had travelled upwards of 30 miles; my feet and ancles were covered with blood, and the sand which got into the wounds made me suffer horribly. My companions were nearly in the same state; and our shoes, being almost entirely worn out, were no longer of any use.

However, our fatigue and pain did not prevent us from making our accustomed repast. The Arabs made the surrounding places resound with the same songs which we had formerly heard. They afterwards partook of a kind of pottage, which they had prepared with some barley-meal before quitting the wreck. This pottage acquired, when cold, all the consistence of bread, and, for many days, it was their sole nourishment; the sobriety of

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these men was inconceivable, and the apparent indifference with which they endured their privations cannot be too much remarked. I have seen them pass two days without taking any kind of drink, and they made only one meal a day, and that after sunset. The Ramadan, or fasting month, in which we began to enter, prescribed this obligation: "*Goyete te coul*," (children may eat), said Sidy Hamet, "but Mussulmen, who have beards, must not, God forbids them to do so." And at the same time, in order to explain himself better, he took hold of his beard with one hand and pointed to heaven with the other.

The coolness of night, in diminishing our thirst, partly restored our strength; however, the cold and anxiety deprived us of sleep. The next morning, at the usual hour, and as soon as the Arabs had repeated their prayers, we pursued our journey. After travelling about five miles we perceived, on our left, a small lake of water; our ardent thirst, renewed by the increasing heat of the day, made us double our pace; but, on our arrival at the spot, we were cruelly disappointed: it was a lake of salt-water! we were then not more than fifteen miles from the sea, and the direction which we followed led us towards the north. Driven to despair at not finding this promised and so much desired water, each of us mournfully continued our way. The ground which we passed over was less sandy than that of the preceding day; it was frequently very hard, and, as it were, calcined by the ardour of the sun. I remarked a great quantity of round stones, many of whom appeared of the species of our flints, and we could extract fire from them. Those which struck me most, and which were found in equal abundance, were blackish, and seemed to me to be volcanic. I picked up one of the latter, and preserved it for some minutes; but I soon threw it away. In a situation such as ours, an interest of this kind, and observations which appeared to us at that time unlikely to be attended with any result, could only occupy us for a short period. Could we at that time foresee that we should one day be restored to the civilized world.

Towards noon we perceived a snake, the view of which surprised us the more, as it was the first reptile which we had yet seen in the midst of these inanimate regions, where neither birds nor insects seemed to exist. We now ascended up fresh mountains of sand, less elevated than those we had already passed over, but nevertheless sufficiently terrible, considering the devouring thirst which tormented us; mine was so dreadful, that my tongue was entirely dried up. Our wine was reduced to a small quantity, and could no longer, by its nature, serve to quench our thirst. It was water we required, the want of which was likely soon to make us miserably perish. I was no longer

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able to walk, and I again fell, exhausted with fatigue, between two heaps of sand, which appeared destined to serve me for a tomb.

In this place, which was one of the driest of the desert, Sidy Hamet halted his camels, telling us that we should at last find water. I confess that the aspect of the surrounding places, and their extreme dryness, made me at first regard his assertion as an insult to our misfortune; but when I saw him, with Ragel and his other companions employed in digging a great hole in the sand, a ray of hope began to dawn upon me, to sooth my dreadful anguish. We no longer thought of fatigue, but all of us advanced towards the well, which they were busily employed in digging. They had already dug to the depth of three feet, and nothing yet announced that a refreshing spring would spout out of so burning a sand. With our eyes attentively fixed on the spot, we waited the result with more anxiety than hope. But Providence this time watched over us, and sent us that relief which we thought would never arrive. When they had dug about four feet and a half deep, we perceived a slight humidity piercing through the sand. At this discovery, an exclamation of gratitude spontaneously proceeded from our lips; joy succeeded to grief, and we experienced, in the midst of these dry and savage places, the enthusiasm of a happiness till then unknown. We expressed it in a thousand ways; and the unfortunate criminal who, ready to perish on the scaffold, receives his pardon instead of the fatal blow, can alone feel a similar delirium.

However, we knew not yet whether this water would issue with all the abundance which our extreme thirst rendered desirable. It filtered very little and very slowly; but, after digging still deeper, it came in great quantity. Then we all precipitated ourselves into the hole, in spite of the Arabs who wished to drink the first, and who already began to wash their feet and hands. The water in consequence became dirty, and had a nauseous taste which, in any other case, would have rendered it detestable; but for us, it became the most delicious drink, and we drank so prodigious a quantity of it, that each of us, afraid of the danger which an excess might produce, made a remark to that purpose to his neighbour, without ceasing, nevertheless, to drink himself. I do not exaggerate in asserting, that I drank from six to seven quarts myself, and my companions nearly the same quantity, during a stay which lasted about two hours.

We again set out towards three o'clock, and at five we arrived on the banks of the sea. The pleasure we experienced in again seeing it, a little restored our courage. Its aspect in some mea-

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sure restored us to Europe, or at least quieted the apprehensions which we sometimes felt, when the Arabs took a direction that brought us back into the interior of the desert.

Nevertheless, M. Souza was indifferent to the view of the ocean. His fatigue was extreme, and he found it impossible to proceed further. His legs being prodigiously swelled, and his feet covered with blood, attested the excess of his sufferings. Resigned to perish, he knelt down upon the sea-shore, joined his hands together, and told us, in a feeble and exhausted voice, that he could not move a step further, and that he saw his last hour was approaching. He begged of us to give him a bottle of water and a little biscuit, to prolong his melancholy existence, and then abandon him. Afterwards addressing himself to M. Scheult, with an expression of despair which made us shed tears, he added, "Captain, perhaps you will one day again behold my wife and children. Tell them, then, how much I feel the misfortune of dying in such a place, and so far removed from them! Tell them, also, that I die not without giving them my benediction!"

This scene deeply affected us, but Sidy Hamet was insensible to it. We implored him to allow our unfortunate companion to ride upon a camel; but our prayers were ineffectual. He obstinately refused to grant us what we solicited with so much eagerness, and commanded us to depart. In order to induce him to grant our request, one of us thought it would be expedient to offer him one of the pieces of gold which M. Souza had contrived to secrete in his braces. We applauded this idea, which was immediately put in execution, and our insensible Arab, moved by the sight of gold, granted our request. M. Souza mounted upon one of the camels: but this poor fellow was so ill and broken down, that his feebleness, joined to his inexperience, was well nigh occasioning his death. At the moment when the camel, which was of an extraordinary height, rose up with a sudden jerk, M. Souza, who did not expect so rude a motion, was thrown down with extreme violence. We thought he was killed; however, he had only an arm and a hand bruised. We replaced him upon the camel, and he was enabled to continue his journey, as well as M. Mexia, whose continual sufferings made us believe his end was approaching.

At seven o'clock we arrived at the end of our third day's journey. We calculated that we had at least travelled over a space of thirty miles in the direction of the north.

Sidy Hamet made us encamp in a cemetery situated on the banks of the sea, where the Arabs, who had died in these parts of the desert, were no doubt interred. Masses of stones, piled

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up upon each grave, announced that the number of Arabs buried in this place was pretty considerable. Our guides were afraid of a surprise on the part of other travellers encamped in the environs, and thought they would find a shelter in a place where it was not likely any one would come to alarm them.

The vicinity of the sea permitted us to enjoy the pleasure of bathing, which refreshed us after the fatigues of the journey. This position, which night alone rendered disagreeable to us, by the cold which we experienced from the sea, afforded us also the facility of obtaining shell-fish, which we found there in great abundance. They composed our sole repast for the day, together with a little biscuit and about a glass of wine each, being the ration to which we were reduced, and which we were soon to be deprived of altogether.

CHAPTER V.

Vestiges of former shipwrecks.—Sufferings and despair of M. Mexia.—Masses of salt.—Arrival at the camp of Sidy Hamet.—Importunity of the women and children.—Description of the camp.—Occupation of the Arabs.—Hospitality.—Sidy Hamet quits his camp.—Continuation of the journey.—Ostriches in the desert.—Arrival at the camp of Seid.

On the morning of the 20th of June, we discovered, near to the place where we had passed the night, the remains of some unfortunate vessels, which had been wrecked upon the coast. A number of masts, driven ashore by the waves, were still to be seen, attesting, by their decayed state, the remote epoch of the wrecks.

At six o'clock we again set out, and continued our journey along the coast. During the first three hours we experienced less difficulties than usual; the ground was hard and stony, and presented an even surface, which permitted us to travel with greater ease. We remarked here and there a small plant rising about an inch and a half above the soil, and which yielded a red and glutinous fruit, of the size of a large pea. We wished to taste it, but our conductors opposed our intention, assuring us that it was dangerous. I requested Sidy Hamet to tell me the name of it, which he said was *Afa*.

The sky was clear, and we travelled with a speed which was not usual with us; however, this did not last long. We suddenly discovered a precipice before us, which barred our way.

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An opening of nearly six hundred yards wide separated us from the opposite bank; it appeared to have formerly been the bed of a river, or rather an arm of the sea. Bordered on both sides by steep rocks, it seemed almost impossible to find a passage through. However, after more than an hour's search, we thought we had found one, and we prepared to descend into this hollow. Sidy Hamet compelled Messrs. Mexia and Souza to descend from their camels, and ordered them to march the best way they could. Ragel still endeavoured to discover a place less inconvenient for the camels, but without success. How I dreaded this difficult passage, on account of our invalids! A passage which was likely to be so fatiguing for those who had not the same sufferings to support! To descend was almost nothing, but to climb up the opposite height I thought was impossible. M. Mexia, who was at a distance behind us, uttered cries of despair, and made use of threats, which fortunately were not understood, to induce Sidy Hamet to stop. In his interest, as well as our own, I returned towards him, and tried to calm an exasperation, for which unfortunately he had too much cause. I represented to him, that we had no power over this man; that it was absolutely necessary to use all our efforts to follow him. I offered even to remain with him, should he find it impossible to proceed farther; but M. Mexia, almost dying, was no longer in a condition to understand me; my representations tended only to provoke him, and, in a state of suffering which would have drawn tears from the most obdurate hearts, he exclaimed, that I was the occasion of all his misery. Misfortune leads to injustice; but it is excusable in a man whose temper was soured by the excess of his sufferings.

Nevertheless M. Mexia succeeded, with infinite trouble, in ascending the opposite bank, and dragging himself about a mile further; there, fortunately, Sidy Hamet halted, and allowed us to take a little repose, by the shade of some rocks. For the first time we were sheltered from the burning rays of the sun, under a sky which had never, during the space of four months, presented one solitary cloud as the natural fore-runner of rain! never had a single drop of water fallen from the sky to cool our burning lips!

By three o'clock, Ragel having joined us with the camels, we again set out, and soon left the banks of the sea, from which we were distant, for the rest of the day, about five miles. At six o'clock, we came up to considerable masses of salt; the ground gave way under our feet, producing a certain cracking noise, like snow hardened by the frost. These heaps, of a very white and beautifully chrystallized salt, were very numerous, and ranged with a kind of order and symmetry. Near to the greater

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part, lay a basket made of reeds, resembling a peck measure, and used for that purpose. Sidy Hamet gave me to understand that caravans frequently passed by these places, and formed with this salt a part of their cargo for Timectou.

Very early in the morning of the 21st, we were roused by the prayers of the Arabs, and by their noisy songs. They pressed us afterwards to set out, and at the same time announced to us a very long day's journey. In order to prepare for supporting the fatigue, we drank, to our great regret, and to the extreme satisfaction of the Mussulmen, the remainder of the wine which had been our sole support until this period. Deprived of this resource, how could we from henceforth resist so fatiguing a march? Water also failed us; but our guides positively assured us that we should speedily find some. We were enabled to support the privation until noon, but after that time, having again entered the sands, the heat became so intense, that we again experienced the torment of the most ardent thirst, a torment which rendered us insensible to all other pain. I was so persuaded that I should this time fall a sacrifice to excessive thirst, that having dropped upon the sand two very fine diamonds, which I had concealed about me, the idea never entered into my head to pick them up. Of what value could these objects be to me, when I would have given all the wealth in the universe for a single glass of water?

At last we came up to a pond about four feet in depth and ten in circumference, and containing about half a foot of stagnant water. We soon exhausted it, by the quantity which we drank, as well as by what we carried away with us. A toad, placed at the further end, appeared as the guardian of this precious pool. We wished to drive it away in order to drink, but the Arabs would not allow us; they regarded it as a protecting angel, and we contented ourselves by leaving this solitary inhabitant dry in its abode.

We then continued our journey, and soon afterwards Sidy Hamet, showing me a mountain which presented itself to our eyes, cried out, with an emotion of joy, mixed with a kind of pride, "At this mountain which you see before us, commences the land of the Mussulmen; it is there where Sidy Hamet has his family, and soon we shall be in the midst of them." I thought I also understood him to say, that we were about to quit entirely the dry and barren desert, to enter into a much better country.

The aspect of this mountain announced, in fact, a kind of vegetation. It served as the limits to the country of the Mussulmen: here Sidy Hamet desired us to wait until sun-set; his intention being to travel by night, in order to avoid a rencounter

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with some dangerous Arabs. In consequence we did not set out till six o'clock in the evening, and at eight, we had arrived at the summit of the mountain. We then continued our route, and travelled for three hours, without Sidy Hamet being at all disposed to stop; he was in hopes of arriving at his camp the same evening; but our fatigue became so overwhelming, that we could proceed no farther. We had travelled at least twenty-four miles: the obscurity of night doubled our lassitude, and the difficulty we experienced in marching was so much greater, as our feet were embarrassed at every moment by an unknown vegetation.

We then disposed ourselves for rest, without having any idea of the place where we were, and Sidy being unable to conquer our resistance, followed reluctantly the same example.

The next morning we set out at an early hour, keeping in the direction of north-east, and more frequently that of the east. The country presented a different aspect, but we had not yet seen any tree; we perceived only, on all sides, in the middle of the sand, a species of shrub, which, being multiplied to infinity, presented to us, as far as the eye could reach, a plain of verdure to which our eyes had long been unaccustomed. The great quantity of these shrubs, which were not high, but very close to each other, rendered our march extremely painful, on account of the numerous turnings which we were obliged to make in order to avoid them. Sidy Hamet enjoying the idea of his approaching return to his family, appeared to boast of this extraordinary vegetation, by repeating to us unceasingly: *N'sara, Monslemines bezzeif darmousse. Darmousse* is the name given by the Arabs to this shrub. When we consider with what abundance it covers the territory of the Mussulmen, it is to be regretted that in these regions, destitute of all resources, this shrub should neither be productive of comfort nor utility; for it affords no shade, and the milky liquor, which flows from its branches when they are broken, appears to be a dangerous poison. These shrubs, when dried, are sometimes made use of for fire-wood, notwithstanding the disagreeable odour which they exhale in burning.* The lightness of this dry wood is extreme, and it is broken with the same facility as the pith of a reed.

A plant which was also scattered among the darmousses, and which becomes more precious from the use which might be made of it, is called the *Ché*. With some others, it serves for pasturage to the cattle of the Mussulmen, who also use it them-

* The Darmousse must be a species of *euphorbium*.

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selves, by infusing it into the milk of the camel, in order to give it an agreeable taste. This plant pretty much resembled heads of lavender, and its odour was not unlike that of thyme.

We still continued to advance, and without Sidy Hamet being able to discover the position which his camp had taken during his absence. Always at a great distance before us, he looked round on all sides, endeavouring to find out the traces of his numerous herds, but in vain; nothing yet presented itself to his view. At 11 o'clock he halted, and made us unload the camels. He sent Ragel, mounted on one of them, to search for water, which again failed us. At three o'clock Ragel had not returned, and with our eyes attentively fixed in the direction which he had taken, we awaited his return with the liveliest impatience; Sidy Hamet himself, for the first time, could not disguise the excessive thirst which he also experienced. Lying upon a sack-ful of seeds of the desert, which he had brought with him, he appeared to suffer extremely; but he extended his hand towards heaven at every instant, meaning, that we must resign ourselves to God. I then remarked how much fatalism can be of service to these men; but on the other hand, how often had we to complain of this fatalism, when it made them attribute to God those evils which they inflicted upon us by their sole will and pleasure!

Ragel did not return, and we thought we might alleviate our extreme thirst, by eating some of these desert seeds. We therefore requested Sidy Hamet to give us some, which he accordingly did; but they only served to double our thirst and render it more insupportable.

This seed is of the size of a small dried cherry, is equally wrinkled with it, and preserves its red colour. Its taste partakes a little of all-spice, and leaves momentarily in the mouth the coolness of mint. It is known in the desert, at least in those parts which we travelled through, under the name of *Enefice.**

The enefice cannot long supply the place of other food; but it is often of great assistance in long journeys, when all other provision fails. Then it becomes, during several days, the sole nourishment of men and even animals, and by its easy transport, gives to the Arabs, who are always sure to be well supplied with

* The Ouadlims, as well as the Mussulmen, give the same name to this seed. I have not seen the shrub which produces it, but it grows in great abundance to the south of Cape Bojadore.

I preserved a number of *enefices* for some time, which I should have wished to have brought away with me, but I found myself under the hard necessity of eating them.

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it, the means of penetrating into the most barren parts of the desert.

At five o'clock we at last perceived Ragel returning towards us at full speed. We quenched our thirst with the brackish water which he brought us, and immediately prepared for our departure. To our great astonishment, Sidy Hamet made us return back, directing our steps a little more towards the east. He sent the young Arabs off in all directions, and himself kept always a-head, seeking every where for this runaway camp, no intelligence of which had yet transpired.

At sun-set, an old Arab, of a repulsive appearance, came out of a hollow part of the desert, accosted our conductors as old acquaintances, and burst into a fit of laughter on observing us. Shortly afterwards, accompanied by this old man, who joined our caravan, we passed in the midst of about fifty camels, who were grazing here and there under the guard of an Arab, but more resembling a negro. This man, whose figure recalled to me that of the Ouadlims, came to me in the most insolent manner, seized hold of my hat and ran off with it. I pursued him, and again got possession of it; but I paid for my temerity by receiving a severe contusion from the butt-end of his firelock.

We halted for the night in a hollow part of the desert, after having travelled more than twenty-five miles during the night. The next morning, Sidy Hamet departed with the newly arrived Arab, in search of his camp. Ragel, whom we saw no more, departed also, and we remained in our position, with our young conductors and the camels, in order to await the result. Sidy Hamet did not return; but after remaining in anxious expectation more than six hours, the old Arab came in search of us, and informed us that the camp was found, and that Sidy Hamet awaited us.

Two hours afterwards, an extraordinary bustle announced to us that the camp was at no great distance, and we soon perceived some extremely low tents, surrounded with thickets and numerous troops of camels. What a new scene for us! more than 2000 animals appeared to us on the horizon: Arabs were continually arriving in all directions, and running towards the camp, either on foot, or mounted upon their camels. At the sight of us, the women and children, as if seized with alarm, began to take flight, uttering the most piercing cries. Nevertheless, one woman, the wife of Sidy Hamet, less intimidated than the others, and equally remarkable for a kind of dignity in her manners as for her elevated stature, came towards us. She indicated to us a tent which had been destined for us, and we immediately repaired to it in order to escape from the gaze

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of a circle of Arabs, whom insolence and curiosity had insensibly drawn around us.

It was not likely we should long inspire terror; these same women and children, who had at first fled at our approach, soon precipitated themselves upon us, and speedily made us understand into what hands we had again fallen. There was no kind of torment to which we were not exposed on this unfortunate night. These women, the greater part of whom were of an agreeable exterior, spat in our faces; and if they by any accident happened to touch us in their eagerness to insult, they instantly spat in their hands, in order to wash them, testifying by that the horror and disgust which our presence inspired. The men, who were not long in arriving from all parts, began to increase the crowd to such a degree as almost suffocated us, and, by menaces of another kind, expressed in a colder but not less cruel manner the hatred which they entertained for us. Without the least regard either to the age or the sufferings of M. Mexia, they several times held a poniard to his heart; and M. Chalumeau, whom an Arab wished to strip, had to support the same menace. We at last were in danger of being torn to pieces, when our cries brought Sidy Hamet to our assistance. He dispersed this tormenting crowd; but he himself laughed at our sufferings; his eyes, which expressed the duplicity of his heart, indicated to us that the character of this man was full of hypocrisy, and that we had at first been the dupes of it. However, he gave orders to bring us something to eat, and one of the negro women who served his family, came and threw at our feet a wooden porringer filled with a paste made with barley-flour. We made an excellent repast of it, and night approaching, we retired to rest, forgetting all our troubles.

Towards midnight we were awoke in a fright, by a number of goats, who leaped upon us and bounced upon our faces. We were, it appeared, the usurpers of a tent which they occupied before our arrival, and habit had brought them to their accustomed resting-place. We dispersed them the best way we could, and endeavoured, but in vain, to detain some of them, in order to procure their milk, but they obstinately refused to allow us.

The return of day brought back the women, who again surrounded us. The two daughters of Sidy Hamet were particularly remarkable for their beauty, but they harassed us in such a manner, that the brilliancy of their charms was entirely lost upon us by their unexampled effrontery. The youngest of them, whose name I recollect, because she repeated it to us so often, was called Coria. If it is impossible to conceive a handsomer creature in any country, I leave it to be imagined, how much her

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charms were set off by the singularity of this wandering and savage life. Upon the whole, these two sisters ceded in nothing to the most beautiful Spanish women, and they had entirely the features which characterize those of that nation; but, if they were equally beautiful, they differed extremely in their costume. They wore a species of woollen robe, which covered them from the shoulders, where it was tied, down to their feet, which were naked. This clothing, entirely open on one side, waved when they passed before us, either wantonly in the air or intentionally. Many other women, with the exception of some who were old and disgustingly dirty, gave me an advantageous idea of the beauty of the fair sex in this part of the desert. Their teeth were as white as the milk which makes their principal nourishment; and nearly all of them were remarkable for the vivacity and expression of their eyes; and the care which they took in colouring their eye-brows, by means of a blue-stone, added considerably to their brilliancy.*

The fury which these women had shewn towards us the preceding day, was succeeded by a fatiguing curiosity, and by the desire of stripping us entirely. They all wished to know whether we were married; if we had any children; what was their number, and their sex; and while they were questioning us, they endeavoured, by every means in their power, to snatch away what little clothes remained upon us. They wished particularly to take my surtout, which, unfortunately, was lined with silk, an article of dress they are very fond of; being afraid that I could no longer resist their efforts to obtain possession of it, I adopted the plan of tearing off this silk, which having done, I voluntarily presented it to the wife of Sidy Hamet.† She immediately ornamented her head with it, but was insensible to an action which I had done entirely to interest her in our favour.

During the absence of the Arabs, I was induced to leave our tent, where we had been as it were blockaded, in order to survey

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* This usage, together with that of colouring the nails of their feet and hands, and above all the habit of fastening to their platted and greasy hair, buttons, keys, and various trinkets, principally distinguish the women of the desert. They also ornament their hair (to which I have seen attached several beautiful English watch-seals, attesting other shipwrecks) with a composition resembling a piece of yellow wax, of the size of a walnut. This ornament, the form of which is varied, comes from the empire of Morocco.

The other objects, of a rarer nature, which we began to discover in the dress of these women, were silver clasps, which supported their robes under their shoulders, and rings of the same metal which they had fastened to their legs above the ancle, and which entirely resembled the collars which we put upon our dogs.

† One cannot imagine in what a degree of estimation silks are held by the women of the desert; they are particularly desirous for black silk cravats.

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this Arabian camp, in which Sidy Hamet had informed us we should make a certain stay, to give him time to inform the captain-general of the Mussulmen of our approaching arrival. What influence this new personage was to have on our fate, the future alone would shew. I was now solely occupied with the scene before me.

The camp might be about six hundred yards in circumference, and its site, in which we remarked only a dozen of tents, was destitute of vegetation and of the shrubs which covered the environs and the whole of the plain. The tent of Sidy Hamet and his family, which was a little higher and more spacious than the rest, occupied the middle of the enclosure. Our own tent was situated immediately behind, and the others, which served as a shelter for those families who more particularly recognised the authority of this chief, were placed on both sides of his own. These tents, which were made of webs derived from camels' hair, and supported in the middle by poles, having a kind of basket at the top, had very small apertures; they were fixed on all sides by pegs driven into the ground, and covered over with stones. The interior of that of Sidy Hamet was distinguished by a carpet. As to the other tents, they had only a mat made of rushes or reeds. On this mat reposed each family; men, women, and children all slept promiscuously. A few props to sustain the goat-skin bottles, filled with water or milk; some wooden jugs, of which Sidy Hamet had only a greater number than the others, formed very nearly the whole moveables of this wandering population, who make up, by independence and liberty, for what is wanting of the comforts and conveniences of life.

Towards the middle of the day, the extreme heat, and the absence of the greater part of the men, deprived the camp of all its bustle. We remarked only, at the entrance to the tents, some women occupied in grinding, between two stones, the barley which was to serve the Arabs for their evening's repast: other women were weaving camels' hair, and equally sheltered from the scorching rays of the sun.*

In the evening the scene became more animated. The setting-sun prescribed to the traveller the end of his journey, and became, for the masters of the camp, the moment for fulfilling the duties of that affecting hospitality which distinguishes the Arabs from the other nations of the earth. In all directions we perceived travellers; some arriving in troops, lightly mounted; others, frequently singing, followed alone their loaded camels,

* The stuff which serves to cover the tents of the Arabs is manufactured in the camp itself, and is the sole production of their industry.

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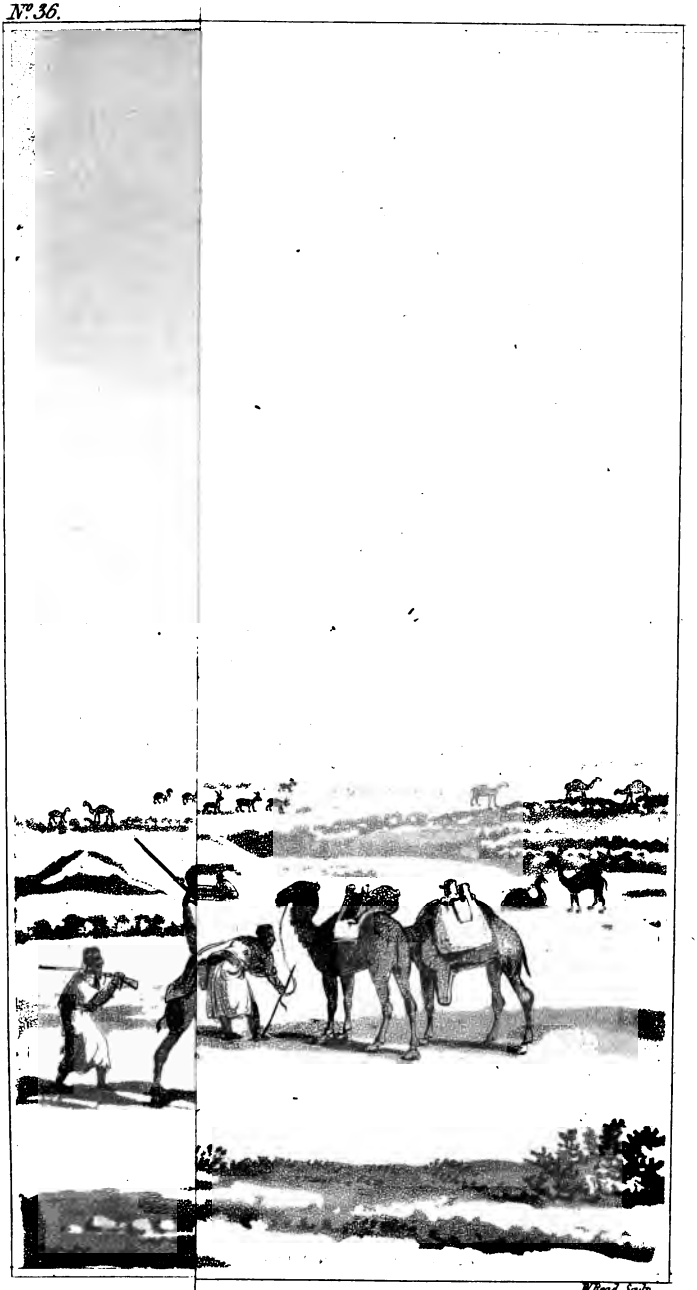

W. Hoard. Sculp.

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Each Arab made his camel kneel before the tent of Sidy Hamet, and then, holding his musket in one hand, he touched with the other the head of his host, and afterwards kissed his hand, in token of respect. Sidy Hamet congratulated each on his happy arrival, and returned the numerous salutations which he received, without informing himself whether the traveller belonged to a friend's, or an enemy's tribe: he was an Arab, and this quality was sufficient to entitle him to partake of his hospitality. Soon afterwards the camp changed into a mosque, and a general prayer assembled all the people. When this was over, the travellers formed themselves into a group, and, sitting upon the ground, they partook in common, (out of a large porringer which was placed in the centre,) of the respast which had been prepared for them, and of which Sidy Hamet, without touching it himself, honoured with his presence.

The return of the herds augmented still more the liveliness of this picture. At the approach of night, they drew nearer to the camp, and each herd, by a peculiar instinct, came and ranged itself before the tent to which it belonged. It was then the moment of a general bustle, which the reader may easily conceive, by representing to himself, all the women mixing in the crowd of these numerous herds, and busily employed in milking the goats and female camels. This operation took place amidst the extraordinary noise of more than 2000 animals, who made the air resound with their cries.

But to this extreme bustle soon succeeded a profound calm; the inhabitants of the camp returned to their tents; the travellers, assembled in groups outside, slept by the side of their extinguished fires, enveloped in their cloaks; the cattle, closely collected together, remained immoveable until morning. Every thing was still; that silence which reigned in the desert, had penetrated into the camp, and was not expected to be disturbed till the return of day.

But it was otherwise with us. At midnight a woman appeared in our tent, and summoned us to give her money. We soon recognised her to be the wife of Sidy Hamet, who menaced us with her resentment, if we refused to comply with her demand. We declared that we had no longer the means of satisfying her wishes; and this woman, who no doubt feared being surprised, soon after made her escape, without making any noise, and concealing her fury and her rage. If such a visit alarmed us, how much more had we occasion to be so, some hours afterwards, by a circumstance which was very nigh aggravating our miserable situation in the cruellest manner!

On the morning of the 25th, ere the twilight had yet appeared, a chief of the Arabs, whom we had not yet seen,

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approached our tent, followed by his troop, and rudely shaking Captain Scheult and the sailor Affilé, commanded them, with all the insolence of the most absolute authority, to rise, and follow him.

This unknown voice, which thus threatened to decide our fate, made us suddenly jump up. Trembling with the morning's cold, and with the impression which such a disorder caused us, we gazed, with eyes half open, upon the chief, whose menacing figure augmented our terror. They wished to separate us, and had we not prevented them, two of our number would soon have had no longer the same master; but nothing on earth could make us consent to this separation. While holding each other by the arm, we resisted all the efforts which they made to part us, declaring we would sooner die, that we might all have one common fate. Sidy Hamet, attracted to the spot by our resistence, wished also to employ force in order to reduce us to submission. We then took him apart; and offered him a piece of gold if he would consent to leave us together. What power this metal exercised over him! a small Portuguese coin, which we assured him was the last, secretly given to him by M. Souza, saved us from the danger which we so much dreaded. The effect of this piece of gold was inconceivable. Sidy Hamet took it, regarding us with astonishment, and the Arabs, who were not aware of what had been done, ceased their persecutions by his orders. How came it that Sidy Hamet, who must again have supposed us to be possessed of gold, did not at this moment desire us to deliver it up? The fear of being obliged to share it with the Arabian strangers, and the absence of nearly all his troop, were no doubt his only motives for hesitating to search us immediately.

The sun now began to appear: the Arabian travellers departed from the camp without saying a word, and without taking leave of any one whatever. The greater part directed their steps towards the place of our shipwreck, or went in another direction to seek a new and hospitable reception for the night. How admirable is this virtue, and what facility does it give to these men to arrive at the end of their long and painful travels! Has an Arab a journey to undertake, it is not preparations which hinder him. He mounts his camel, and frequently takes nothing with him but his musket and his poniard. Some seeds and a small quantity of a sort of clarified butter, which he carries in a goat-skin bottle, become his sole provisions. The clothing which he has upon him suffices as a guarantee from the coldest nights. If in his way he conjectures that there is an insulated tent in the midst of mountains of sand, he examines on all sides, and, if he discovers it, he is sure to receive from

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this family, lost as it were in the desert, and who rise up at his approach, the same reception which he would meet with from the wealthy Arab, who is enriched with numerous herds of cattle. If the places he has to travel through are barren and uninhabited, if they absolutely afford no nourishment for him or his beast, then he doubles and triples the speed of his camel, making, if necessary, as much as 100 miles in one day; and this useful animal, sacred in these climates, transports him, without even halting, into less wild regions, and conducts him, in this manner, from one tent to another, even to the remotest limits of the desert.

The camp of Sidy Hamet had no sooner been reduced to its own inhabitants, than, to our great surprise, we saw the women lowering the tents and making preparations themselves for departure. Sidy Hamet had given an order to raise the camp, and in less than half an hour these tents were rolled up and placed on camels, as well as the utensils and baggage. Other camels, on which were fixed different sorts of baskets, made of osier and leather, carried the women and children. Some of the women followed on foot, and the whole cortège, preceded by the herds of cattle, were soon in motion, directing their steps towards the south, in order to seek new pasturage.

The convoy slowly departed, and on the site of the camp, where a few hours before we had remarked so much bustle, we remained alone with Sidy Hamet, another Mussulman who was preparing two camels for departure, and a young man, who, standing by our side, observed us with great attention. This young man had a sabre suspended from his cloak, by a cord of amaranthine silk, and appeared destined to accompany us; he held by the hand a very handsome, although meager, horse. The sight of this noble animal, which was the first we had perceived in the desert, caused us, on this account, a very lively sensation.

It was about 10 o'clock in the morning when Sidy Hamet ordered us to set out. He alone knew where we were going. Nevertheless, as he always talked to us about the great Captain of the Mussulmen, *(Akbar Reis)*, we supposed that we were proceeding to the abode of that important personage. Seid, the young man, the proprietor of the horse, accompanied us. Sidy Hamet several times repeated to us that this new companion was his *beur-mane*, an expression which, by the gestures with which it was uttered, appeared to signify his foster brother.

We had the facility of mounting at intervals upon the camel of Sidy Hamet and the Barbary horse of Seid, and it was with a feeling of pride, that I found myself for the first time mounted

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on the latter, that I felt my feet supported by Arabian stirrups, and that I was at full liberty to gallop into the immense desert of Sahara. In every point of view, this horse became for us an object of curiosity; we had hitherto seen nothing but camels employed, and we were not ignorant of the impossibility of using horses in the most sandy parts of the desert. This was then an additional motive for us to encourage the hope of soon entering into a cultivated country.

In our situation, every thing new acquired great interest in our eyes; a pair of Turkish slippers, which Seid wore, attracted our attention. They became, on account of their utility, the objects of our envy, and seemed to indicate relationship with a people more civilized than that in the midst of which we still found ourselves.

Seid and myself frequently walked by ourselves a great way a-head of our small caravan. He was extremely communicative, and it was to him that I was indebted for the knowledge of some Arabian words and phrases, in addition to those which I had till then understood but imperfectly; at every moment he asked me the names, in my own language, of the things which we perceived, and then he would explain them to me in his. His method was always, on pointing out each object, to inquire *asmo?* (its name). If I told him such a thing was sand, he would answer, *raml;* and, if I said road, he would bawl in my ears, *elmegebete*, and so on with each object. While we were thus engaged, there suddenly passed, at the distance of 100 paces on our left, five or six ostriches, with the rapidity of lightning, in the midst of the *darmousses*, which covered the plain. Immediately Seid, being surprised at the impression which this unexpected sight caused me, cried out, laughing, *asmo! asmo!* I told him the name in French, and he assured me that these enormous birds abounded in the districts where we were.

At six in the evening, we halted near to three or four tents, which appeared almost lost in the sands. We had travelled about eighteen miles in several directions, but chiefly in that of north-west. The families inhabiting these tents were in the last stage of misery; we, however, obtained an earthern-pot, in which we baked a sort of bread with our flour and some brackish water, which was become still more disagreeable by its transport in a vessel covered over with pitch. With what delight did we again partake of this first article of food, after having been so long deprived of it. This bread, of which it could only have the name, appeared to us to be excellent; we partook of it, quite hot, drank a little water after it, and I never recollect to have made a better repast.

The next day, at a very early hour, we continued our journey:

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the country, which was still covered with *darmousses* and *che*, (the names of plants) presented also to our view some dwarf bushes, called by Seid *ramada*. At noon we arrived at a well from whence issued only one spring, but with great abundance; the activity which prevailed around this water was inconceivable. From all the surrounding points of the desert, to the distance of thirty miles round, Mussulmen were coming to it, in order to water their flocks. We arrived there in the midst of an astonishing multitude of camels, sheep, and goats. On all sides we saw panting herds arriving and proceeding towards this precious well; we could easily judge, by the lassitude of the animals which arrived, and the vivacity of those who bounded after having drank, how necessary it was for them to satisfy this most pressing of all wants, in order to be restored to their former strength and vigour.

During a few moments of repose, M. Mexia dragged himself, notwithstanding his sufferings, to the spot where I lay, and told me that, with the intention of exciting in our behalf the interest of Sidy Hamet, he had endeavoured to make him understand that I was very rich, and that if he could restore us to our native country, he might reckon on great advantages; M. Mexia now requested of me to support what he had advanced, to which I not only saw no inconvenience, but I was also of his opinion, that it would be proper to flatter the cupidity of this chief, and, therefore, I commenced from henceforth, in the interest of all, to boast to him of my riches.

This opinion of my supposed wealth no doubt confirmed the Mussulmen in the idea which they appeared already to have entertained, that I was the chief of our small troop; and this supremacy, as usurped as my pretended fortune, valued me ever afterwards much too pompous a title. When they alluded to me, they never failed saying, *adde sultan*, (that is the chief.) It may well be conceived I was not in a situation to be flattered by this ridiculous denomination; it only served to remind me that those who were entitled to it experienced among these men a treatment which we might well envy.

We pursued our journey, and arrived about one o'clock at the brow of a hill, where we halted for a short period; exactly at the foot of this hill we remarked a stream of salt-water, and we might then be about 24 miles from the ocean; on the borders of this stream grew some young trees, pretty much resembling our sallows, presenting to us the first vegetable of any height which we had perceived since our shipwreck. The environs of this stream were also not entirely destitute of verdure. Seid, seeing that his horse was so excessively fatigued as to be unable to proceed further, resolved, to our great regret, to abandon him at this

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place. Whether he expected to find him again on a future day, I know not; for I could never understand the explanation which he gave me respecting it.

At five o'clock we halted for the night, at the abode of a relation of Seid's, who, with his family and some other Arabs, occupied a number of tents surrounded with bushes. On the following day, after a very fatiguing journey, we arrived at the camp of Seid, which was composed of a great number of tents. Here it was announced to us that we were to remain until the arrival of the captain-general of the Mussulmen. We entered into a tent, and soon after experienced, on the part of the women, a similar reception to that which we had been unable to avoid in the camp of Sidy Hamet; but, we were so much in the habit of receiving insults, that they caused us little uneasiness, and our bodily sufferings frequently concerned us more than the fury of our hosts. At the termination of these painful journies, Messrs. Mexia and Souza, who had been transported almost dying, now alighted from their camels, in so exhausted a state, that they both fell senseless on the ground, and it was long ere we could restore them to some degree of strength.

CHAPTER VI.

Occupations of the sufferers in the camp of Seid.—Vengeance of a woman.—Arrival of the Cheik Beirouc.—His portrait.—Honours rendered to him by the Arabs.—The sufferers are sold to Beirouc.—They are afterwards searched.—Departure with the Cheik Beirouc.—Arrival at Ouadnoun.—The sufferers are put into a kind of dungeon, at the house of Beirouc.—The Cheik Ibrahim visits them.

Repose had now become so necessary for us, that we regarded the stay which we were obliged to make in the camp of Seid, as a fortunate circumstance. We employed a part of our time in making bread with our flour; M. Chalumeau constituted himself baker, and he kneaded the dough in a wooden bowl, before our tent; whilst my other companions and myself were occupied in pushing back the women, who considerably diminished our small provision of flour by their successive depredations. Nevertheless, they indicated to us the way by which we were to bake the bread when the dough was prepared; this method consisted in digging a hole in the sand, and there placing the dough upon stones which had been previously warmed. The hole was afterwards covered over with sand equally hot, and care was taken to keep up a brisk fire above this singular oven, until the bread was

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thoroughly baked: we found the means of making a fire by plucking up some bushes which surrounded the camp.

Towards evening, the Arabian families, in whose tents we had passed the preceding night, arrived with several camels, loaded with their tents and luggage. Having determined to follow us, either by that restlessness which is so natural to these wandering tribes, or by their insurmountable curiosity, they came to take up their position in the camp of Seid: the tranquillity of which was soon troubled by one of the women belonging to these newly arrived families.

This woman, burning with incredible rage, suddenly flew towards our tent, with a sabre in her hand. We reasonably thought we were the objects of her animosity, when we saw her rush upon an old woman, who was mixing in the crowd which surrounded us, and strike her several times on the head with the sabre, which she brandished with fury. Sidy Hamet immediately interposed his authority, and we learned that the old woman inhabited a neighbouring camp, and had a few days previously killed the son of the other, who now sought to revenge his death. This scene excited great agitation, and might have been attended with fatal consequences, on account of the different parties which the men began to take. At last they fortunately succeeded in separating these two women, and the old woman made a precipitate retreat across the hills of sand, where she was pursued by the women, who loaded her with execrations, and threw stones at her all the way to the camp.

Order was hardly re-established in our own, when we saw two travellers arrive, mounted upon a camel of an extraordinary height. As soon as they were perceived, Sidy Hamet, Seid, and nearly all the Mussulmen arose, and went to meet them. Seid drew the camel near to the tent where we were standing, and having caused it to kneel down, these two men alighted, examining us with attention. The youngest of them, who might be about 34 years of age, and to whom all the demonstrations of respect were addressed, was attired in a much more elegant and costly manner than Sidy Hamet and the other Mussulmen. His *haique*, which was much finer than theirs, and of an extreme whiteness, hung beautifully over another garment of sky blue, ornamented on each side of the breast with silk embroidery of various colours. Red morocco boots, tastefully figured, added still more to the elegance of his dress, and without having precisely a turban, we remarked round his head, which was entirely shaved, a band of blue silk, which appeared a mark of distinction. This new personage was of the middling size, well made, and of an athletic form; his countenance was very irresolute, his eyes lively, his chin shaved, and his swarthy and almost black complexion indi-

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cated that the Moorish blood which flowed in his veins was mixed with that of the negro. This hitherto unknown individual was no other than the chief of the Mussulmen, who had so long been announced to us, and who was styled the Cheik Beirouc.

Seid displayed great eagerness to pay him every mark of respect. A carpet was laid down on the place where we stood, and we were driven back into one of the corners of the tent. Beirouc stretched himself upon the carpet, smoked a pipe which was given to him, and eyed us with a disdainful look; then, with an air of dignity which overawed all around him, he commenced, in an extraordinary loud tone of voice, a conversation of which we were continually the object, amidst the immoderate laughter of all the courtly Arabs who heard him. Beirouc was only separated from them by the breadth of the carpet, and his poniard and musket lay by his side. These arms were very remarkable for their silver mountings. Having handed me his musket that I might give my opinion upon it, he asked me, at the same time, whether it was English or French manufacture. As soon as I examined it, I not only recognised it to be a very beautiful French fowling-piece, but my surprise was extreme when I read on the cover of the pan, *Manufacture d'armes de Charleville.* What sensations did I experience on seeing the name of the city in which I was born, and recollecting that my own father had formerly a considerable interest in this very manufactory!

The festival which Seid had prepared for his host was prolonged until day-break. Then they commenced their prayer, and immediately afterwards the Cheik Beirouc, followed by an Arab of a dismal figure, named El-Abaid, who had preceded his arrival, and who appeared to be related to him, advanced about a hundred paces from our tent, and placed himself near a hill of sand. Sidy Hamet, Seid, and a dozen of Arabs soon joined him, and a very warm discussion took place. Beirouc and Sidy Hamet were the principal speakers; they observed us attentively, and often reckoned with their fingers. It was therefore evident that we were still the subject of this new council. I no longer doubted it, when they gave orders for us to come one after the other, to undergo an examination by this formidable chief, who measured us from head to foot. Beirouc for a long time regarded us with an extremely inquisitive eye, rudely turned us about in all directions, and particularly examined the palms of our hands. It was easy to see that their object was to assign a value to our persons, and yet, it was not till long after this singular examination, that I knew for a certainty that they were then, to the disgrace of humanity, trafficking for us as slaves, and that the disdain expressed by Beirouc, and the eagerness which, on the other hand, Sidy Hamet showed to set

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us off to advantage, proceeded entirely from their different interests, acting in a contrary sense.

Had we been assured that we had become the property of these men, by virtue of a sale, we should have, notwithstanding the ignominy attached to it, been relieved from much anxiety. We should have believed that they would take every interest in our preservation, from the sacrifices which they had made in order to obtain us. But an impenetrable veil concealed from us our real situation: we had then only a vague and uncertain idea of the treaty which had been concluded between the two chiefs, and which, while it degraded us to the rank of animals, delivered us over to a new master.

In the midst of the uncertainty which we experienced from the numerous conferences which took place among the Arabs, Seid desired me to enter into his tent. I had no sooner gone in than he rushed upon me, with his drawn sabre, and demanded money. I had no longer any left, but I dreaded lest in his search he should discover some diamonds which I had been able to conceal. Being persuaded besides that this daring individual, whose apparent good dispositions had so suddenly changed, had an intention of robbing me unknown to the chief Beirouc, I determined to resist him, and accordingly seized hold of his sabre. Our contest could not take place without some noise, which soon attracted all the Arabs to the door of the tent, and Beirouc himself was of the number. The latter immediately gave an order to drag us all outside the camp, and commence a general search upon us. This order was instantly put into execution. But what was the surprise of Sidy Hamet, who had, no doubt, been the instigator to this scene, when he saw the Arabs seize upon the braces of M. Souza, which were filled with gold! He looked upon us with menacing eyes, and uttered an exclamation mixed with astonishment and rage. The joy of Beirouc could alone equal the fury of Sidy Hamet: it announced to us that the latter had no longer any claim to our property, and might have proved to us, from that time, that other hands than his retained us in their power.

The unexpected discovery of this gold induced them to make fresh searches, and to strip us entirely of our clothes. I trembled for a very fine diamond ring, which its bulk had prevented me from properly concealing. I thought little as to its value, but I preferred losing it in the sands, to seeing it become the prey of the Arabs. In this sole intention, at first, I let it drop at my feet, and buried it in the sand, in order to conceal it from their view: the idea that I should be discovered made me remain an instant immoveable, but I was not observed. I then made a mark with my foot, so that I might, on a future occasion, regain

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possession of this jewel, should a favourable opportunity present itself.

When we had recovered from the surprise into which this last scene had thrown us, and had received back a part of our clothes, I sent Affilé in order to discover the ring, which might in the end become a resource in our misfortune. He had the good fortune to find it again; but how could we conceal it from future searches? One method alone remained, and that the least supposable: one of the cheeks of Affilé, which was hollowed by the habit which he had of chewing tobacco, permitted him to put the ring in his mouth, instead of what he called a *cud* in his marine language. This brave man, whose probity and good sentiments were much superior to his condition, and made us highly esteem him, assured me that this would be a pleasure for him, by the illusion which it would cause him. Could I, however, imagine that he would be able to preserve it so long as he did in such a situation? During nearly four months, he kept it night and day, and never took it from his mouth, but with the greatest precaution, and that only at the time when he was forced to do so in order to partake of his meals.*

On the 1st of July the Cheik Beirouc gave orders for departure. Three camels were prepared for us; one was destined to carry Messrs. Scheult and Chalumeau, another for M. Souza and Affilé, and the third for M. Mexia and myself. We set out at a brisk trot, and this pace, which in no way agreed with our extreme weakness, neither with our inexperience in this mode of travelling, made us exhibit so ridiculous an appearance that we at times excited the gaiety of our guides. The Cheik Beirouc, who had another Arab mounted behind him, was constantly by the side of us. Sidy Hamet remained at a certain distance behind with El-Abaid: they were in earnest conversation together, and by their frequently pointing to us, they seemed to be conspiring some plot against us. Seid did not accompany us, but returned to his camp; however, his intention was to join us at a future period.

So long as our camels kept on a brisk trot, not one of us, jolted as we were, could pronounce a single word. There was no other way for us but to cling either to our saddles, or to our companions, in order to avoid a fall, which would have been very dangerous. But as soon as our pace slackened, Beirouc, with his usual volubility, began a conversation on all objects

* This ring became of no service to us, by the assistance which we received; but I was enabled to preserve it, and bring it to France.

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which struck his attention. My slight knowledge of Arabic, increasing every day, already enabled me to understand a little, and to reply to him. He frequently boasted of the excellency of his camels, which we did not seem to appreciate so much as they merited in his eyes. "*Djemel sefineh Sahara.*" (The camel is the vessel of the desert,) said he to me: and then added, laughing, and with a sort of emphasis: "That has never suffered shipwreck."

In continuing a conversation, from which I hoped some fortunate results, as it established a greater familiarity between us and the arbiter of our fate, we entered, by following an easterly direction, into a country, the aspect of which began to change in proportion as we advanced. We soon discovered a little vegetable land susceptible of cultivation. The *darmousses* still continued to abound; but we remarked, in addition to the *ché*, which was here found in greater abundance than elsewhere, many bushes and plants, which gave a less wild appearance to the plain. We afterwards began to climb up some high mountains covered with heath, the rapid acclivity of which presented to us the first beaten paths which we had hitherto perceived; they were a sure sign of an habitual passage. But having reached the summit of these mountains, what a surprising view struck our eyes! The aspect of the country had completely changed; we left behind us the monotonous sterility of the desert, and entered into a cultivated country. From every part the eye discovered considerable camps, and many formed, in the midst of an immense plain, circular inclosures composed of from sixty to eighty tents.

In this plain we perceived horses and mules, and a great number of Arabs occupied in various labours. Some marks of cultivation were here observed, and the lands round the camps, which had been sown with barley, were already reaped.

We then continued our route in a beaten and well laid out road, on both sides of which we saw quantities of hares and sometimes partridges; the former appeared to me very small, and the latter of the red species. Travellers were continually passing us on the road: some were mounted on camels, but the greater part on horses of a small size, equally remarkable for the elegance of their shape as for their extreme agility. All these travellers were armed. As soon as they perceived us, they advanced at full gallop, crying out *ha! ha! ha!* resembling our *huzza*. Some eyed us out of curiosity; others, being more ill-disposed, menaced and endeavoured to intimidate us.

At one o'clock we arrived near a well similar to that which we had seen some days previous. More than three thousand animals, consisting of camels, goats, &c. blocked up our approach

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to it. Our ardent thirst, caused by the extreme heat of the day, could alone induce us to make our way through this multitude; however, we effected a passage after considerable difficulty, and succeeded in drawing water both for ourselves and our camels. The quantity of water drank by the latter is incredible. The one on which I was mounted drank, without exaggeration, more than thirty gallons. The moment I mounted, in order to proceed on our journey, I was astonished to find myself unable to stride across it, as formerly, so much had its flanks enlarged, and I was under the necessity of sitting side-ways. Beirouc assured me, that camels could remain twenty days without drinking, and that even when there was a possibility of procuring them water, they were six or eight days without giving them any.

After travelling about five miles further, we halted at a tent belonging to Beirouc. This tent might be considered as a kind of farm, in the midst of the barley-fields which surrounded it, and which were also the property of this cheik. Some Arabs under his immediate dependance, and a number of very fine negroes, had arrived in order to get in the harvest. We slept outside the tent, and Beirouc announced to us that we were only within one day's journey of the town which he inhabited, and that the next day, long before night, we should arrive at his own house, where we were to take up our abode for a time.

The assurance of soon seeing houses instead of tents, did not fail being agreeable to us. We were quitting an entirely wandering kind of people, and about to arrive among Arabs who possessed fixed dwellings; or rather, we were abandoning altogether the country of the Mussulmen in order to enter that inhabited by independent Moors.*

On the 2d of July, at six o'clock in the morning, we again set out. The country was very far from presenting to us so agreeable an aspect as on the preceding day. This new part of a desert, which we imagined we had quitted for ever, presented nothing but a land covered with stones; no trace of culture was to be seen. However, some clay walls, half broken down, indicated to us that this barren region had formerly been inha-

* The distinction between the denomination of independent Moors and that of Mussulmen, is very difficult to be established; both classes give themselves one or other of these two qualities indiscriminately. Nevertheless, it was sufficiently proved to me that that portion of the inhabited desert which we travelled through, and which was called the country of the Mussulmen, ceased to be so designated when we arrived at fixed dwellings.

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bited. We were accelerating our pace in passing these ruins, which inspired us with melancholy, when, struck simultaneously with the same view, we all cried out: *There is a palm-tree!* It was so in reality; and this palm-tree, whose appearance caused us so lively a sensation, was the first tree which we had seen in Africa. It stood alone, soaring to a great height, by the side of a decayed wall, and commanded the vast plain, which extended as far as the horizon. We continued our way, every where amidst ruins, and not a single inhabitant. No more travellers were to be seen; no living being was discovered throughout the whole extent of the country which we were travelling through, and which appeared to have been ravaged by war and every kind of scourge. The silence which our conductors observed with us, rendered this scene of desolation still more gloomy, and the frequent whisperings of Sidy Hamet and El-Abaid afforded us a new subject for our melancholy conjectures. Suddenly Beirouc halted, and desired us to alight. "What projects," said we to ourselves, "has he respecting us? we are superior in number, but these men are armed, and have only the burning sun to witness their actions." Sidy Hamet and El-Abaid soon made known to us their intentions, by stripping us of our clothes. In despair at having been deprived of the gold which had been recently found upon us, and in the idea of still discovering some, Sidy Hamet had solicited from Beirouc the permission to search us once more to his own advantage; having obtained it, he rummaged every thing which belonged to us; even the bag which contained our flour did not escape a thorough search.

Deceived in his expectations, he again mounted his camel, and an order was given us to do the same. We still advanced further, and at length Beirouc pointed out to us his habitation. We at first looked every where without perceiving any thing; but after we had observed more closely, we discovered towards the east, at the foot of a chain of mountains, a circle of reddish walls, like those which we had seen in ruins, and we distinguished, in the middle of this enclosure, a tower of very great height, which commanded it. But this place, so much boasted of by Beirouc, appeared to me only a shelter for brigands, and this impression was greatly strengthened on our arrival, by the appearance of the inhabitants.

On our left, about twenty negroes were bathing in a basin, situated in the midst of rocks surrounded with rose-laurel. On our right was a forest of palm-trees, and some cultivated gardens. We perceived a great number of Moors lying carelessly on a kind of square adjoining the tower which we had discovered at a distance. The moment they saw us they rose precipitately,

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seized their arms and surrounded us. The news of our arrival soon circulated among all classes in this singular city, which was composed of clay-huts; and from all points we saw men, women, and children running, all curious to see the Christians, whom they looked upon as so many fallow deer. Followed by this multitude, Beirouc conducted us into the place where he had established his dwelling. After passing through ruins of every kind, by three apertures, the first of which had a door, we arrived in a court about 40 feet in length and 12 in breadth. In the middle was a miserable red carpet, and in one of the walls we remarked two small doors, extremely low down, opening into two dungeons, which were really nothing but holes dug in the ground. The worst of these two dungeons was destined for us, and we were speedily compelled to enter into it; the darkness which prevailed, rendered still more dismal by the light from without, prevented us at first from distinguishing any thing: but the reader may judge of our alarm, when we discovered, a few minutes afterwards, a number of chains suspended from the wall of this dungeon, and which formed its only furniture! This new terror, however, dissipated when we learned that these chains were used for the purpose of fettering horses. But it was always reserved for us to add to our too real sorrows, those which resulted, unceasingly, from our fatal suppositions.

Beirouc informed us that we should remain some time with him; he spoke to us of three days, and that period alarmed us, and seemed to us an age. How unfortunate we were! it was during three whole months that we had to experience torments, in this horrible dungeon, which made me a thousand times envy the most dreadful prisons of Europe,—torments which it was almost a miracle to have had strength to support. Until this period we had to complain of, what appeared to us, unheard-of sufferings: alas! could we have foreseen that they were only the prelude to those which we had from henceforth to encounter?

The Moors were almost suffocating us by their presence in our dungeon, when a new personage appeared on the scene, and seated himself upon the carpet which was in the court, exactly facing our cell. He made a sign to us with his hand to come towards him. This personage, whose fine form, high stature, and stern countenance rendered imposing, was the cheik Ibrahim, eldest brother to Beirouc. He exercised, in concert with the latter, an authority over a tribe of independent Moors, which they both owed to the influence of their riches. The power of Ibrahim was, however, superior to that of his brother; he was the chief ruler in the city where we had just

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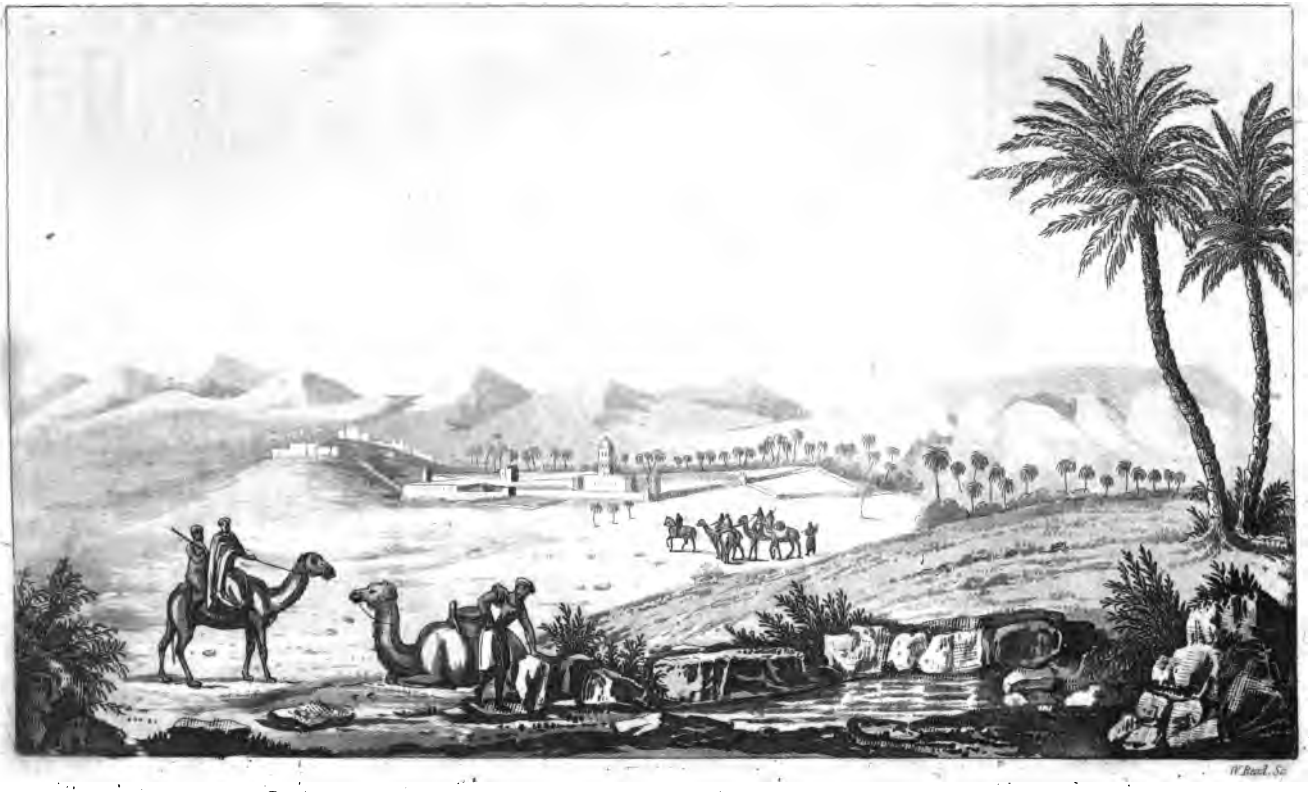

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Ouadnoun, a frontier in the desert of Sahara.

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arrived; and this city, which a very considerable traffic renders less celebrated than the misfortunes of some Christians, was that of Ouadnoun.*

The rest of the evening was employed in replying to the ridiculous questions which the cheik Ibrahim, and all the Moors who surrounded him, did not fail to address to us.† However, by midnight the inquisitive Moors departed. The people of the house brought us some refreshments, and consented to allow us a little repose. But how was it possible to hope for it, in the dreadful dungeon where we entered in order to pass the night?

CHAPTER VII.

Hamar.—Benevolence of this Moor for the sufferers.—View of Ouadnoun.—Its market.—The sufferers write letters to Mogadore.—They are mal-treated by Beirouc.—They are visited by Jews.—M. Chalumeau becomes deranged.—Reply received from Mogadore or Soueirah.—Joy of the sufferers.—Amenahem, the Jew, is charged to negotiate their ransom.—M. Cochelet writes again to Mogadore.—Departure of Amenahem.—Death of M. Chalumeau.

As we had supposed, sleep did not approach our eyelids until the return of day; when lying on uneven ground, amidst

* Ouadnoun, which I call a city, resembles the most miserable town; but I have preserved the first denomination, on account of its commercial importance. Its population cannot exceed 800 inhabitants. Thus, those persons who, without having been there, but merely from report, have represented it as more considerable, have propagated an error. But, if the population of Ouadnoun is not numerous, there prevails nevertheless very great activity, by the regular markets which are there held, and the continual passing and repassing of travellers.

† The cheik Ibrahim having given to his brother the telescope which he had received from Sidy Hamet, it was absolutely necessary for me to shew him the use of it; but I tried in vain: Ibrahim held it up to his eyes, but could see nothing. All the Moors did the same by turns without being able to see any more than him, and without comprehending the use of what appeared to them so strange. A gold repeating-watch astonished them still more. They passed it from hand to hand, held it to their ears, making it strike, and then laughing at it like madmen. Each wished to examine it, but not one could conceive that it marked that time, which went so slowly for us in the midst of such an assembly. But amongst the objects of our shipwreck which reached so far as Ouadnoun, that which most delighted the Moors was an umbrella. Ibrahim held it over his head with so much satisfaction, that we were led to believe he was well aware that in the empire of Morocco the umbrella is one of the distinguishing marks of sovereignty.

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all kinds of filth, and without any thing to cover us; when swarms of insects were running over us, and when devoured by the most disgusting vermin, how was it possible to hope for rest?

Sidy Hamet and El-Abaid passed this first night on the carpet formerly alluded to, which always remained in the court, contiguous to our cell. This court, or yard, was the place where all strangers partook of the hospitality of Beirouc during their stay in his house. Sidy Hamet, unfortunately for us, was to remain there for some time on our account; so that we had him continually before our eyes. The vicinity of our abode to this court, which afforded us an opportunity of witnessing the daily arrival of travellers from the desert, might have interested our curiosity, had we not been the continual object of their importunities.

Among the Moors specially attached to the service of Beirouc, there was a young man about the age of twenty-four, whose mild countenance struck us the moment we saw him, and who evinced a benevolent regard towards us. The name of this young man was Hamar; he was a native of Tétouân, and having from his infancy been in the habit of seeing the arrival of European vessels on the coasts, he had learned to judge of Christians with less severity than those men who only knew us through that sentiment of hatred inspired by religious fanaticism.

To our great satisfaction, we were placed under the superintendence of Hamar, by order of Beirouc himself. We were also allowed to go out with him, and he protected us as much as laid in his power, against the insults of the crowd, which never failed collecting around us. Our first wish was to take a bath, in order to get rid of the vermin which covered us. About the distance of three hundred paces to the west of the city, passes the river Noun, which we had already crossed. The bed of this river was generally dry; but, in some places, there were natural basons in the midst of rocks and rose-laurel, which preserved a sufficient quantity of water. It was in one of these basons that we experienced the delicious sensation which a bath always procures to those who have been for a long time deprived of it.

Hamar, wishing afterwards to give us an idea of the places which surrounded our new habitation, brought us towards the gardens which border the city on the east. The most considerable and the best cultivated belong, of course, to the two cheiks who govern Ouadnoun; the others are cultivated in common, by a certain number of the inhabitants. The ground occupied by the gardens is at most about two miles in circumference; beyond that, on all sides, nothing is seen but the barren desert. But the contrast of this barrenness with a very fine cultivation,

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W. Read. Sc.

A Moorish Woman.

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renders the view of these gardens more surprising and agreeable; on all sides they are ornamented with pomegranate, orange, and several kinds of fig-trees. In the midst of these trees (among which we remarked the *henné*, so precious to the Moorish women, for the colour which they extract from its foliage, and with which they paint their faces) we saw fields of tobacco and Turkey corn of the greatest beauty. The sight of this vegetation appeared to me admirable, after being so long accustomed to a dreary wilderness; but what gave it a peculiar character in my eyes, were the isolated palm-trees, which arose from all parts like so many pillars, majestically commanding, by their bushy tops, the numerous rose-laurels which grew wild at their feet.

On a hill situated to the north of the city, we perceived the ruins of ancient houses, but having arrived at the foot of it, we were struck with astonishment by the bustle which prevailed there, and which was occasioned by more than 3000 armed people moving about in all directions. However, our surprise ceased when we learned that we were on the market-place of Ouadnoun, and that this market, which took place precisely on the day following our arrival, was held every eight days, and attracted together a great many people. Preceded by Hamar, and under his protection, we endeavoured to pass through the crowd; but as soon as we were perceived, a general cry was raised from all parts; every one abandoned his affairs, and pressed around us. With the intention of intimidating, they levelled their muskets at us, and notwithstanding the presence of our guide, we could not escape without receiving some blows from the butt-ends of their guns. I had, however, time to form an idea of the manner in which business is transacted in this market. Buyers and sellers all were armed; each accosted his neighbour with a gun or sabre in his hand. This military parade, which presented more the appearance of a square of soldiers than a market, led me to suppose that in the discussions which arise between contracting parties, one of them might easily obtain a deduction by threatening, or rather levelling his musket at the seller.*

On our return we found our cell filled with strangers. The two cheiks with their children, Sidy Hamet, and Seid himself, who had again joined the latter, had also taken up their station there. They would not allow us a moment's repose; and while it was hardly possible for us to breathe, they forced us, in the midst of the most revolting insults, to reply to a thousand ques-

* This habit of carrying arms is so general among the independent Moors, that nearly always, when seated before their own doors in order to take the air, they have their muskets upon their knees.

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tions, and these often provokingly repeated. Our situation required patience; but instead of shewing that resignation which was necessary, we sometimes gave way to a misplaced passion, which I have no doubt was in a great measure the cause of the bad treatment which we afterwards experienced. But could we always have the mastery over our passions? My readers may judge by the following example, which, however, bears only the character of a ridiculous importunity. Many others of the same kind were daily repeated, with an insolence which rendered the *ennui* which devoured us more intolerable.

The Moors having heard of our skill as physicians, came to consult us at every moment. Remedies were wanting, and having no longer the resource of a bottle of lavender-water, which had so unfortunately established our reputation, we thought proper to prescribe milk for all complaints. This was, at least, a very gentle remedy. If it did not ensure a cure, at least it guaranteed us from all the uneasiness which a hazardous treatment would have excited; and it concerned us, above all things, to be upon our guard with such invalids. We then prescribed camels' milk for internal complaints; and we advised cataplasms of flour and milk (with the view of partaking of a part ourselves before applying them) as a salutary remedy for contusions, and generally all external disorders without exception.

But seeing, as may easily be imagined, the insufficiency of our curative means, I thought one day, and I had reason to repent it afterwards, of endeavouring to make El-Abaid understand that we had possessed in the vessel a general remedy to which no disease could resist, viz. the medicine-chest, which the Ouadlims had broken. In order to give him an idea of the drugs contained in this chest, I shewed him the beads of a chaplet which he always held in his hand, telling him that a part of those drugs had the same form: I alluded to pills, and after expressing my regret to be no longer in possession of this remedy, I said to him: "*El-Abaid, pharmacie ma câne* (there are no more drugs). From that moment, this man laid hold of my expression, and every time that a stranger arrived in the court, where he always laid upon the carpet, he summoned me to appear. Then shewing me the beads of his chaplet, and counterfeiting a sick man, he would say to me, in the most piteous and drawling accent, *pharmacie;* I answered *pharmacie ma câne;* and departed. A moment afterwards he would call me again, and repeat the same insipid question, and I would get off with the same reply. This disagreeable proceeding was renewed perhaps a hundred times in a day. He would always insist that his chaplet was so many drugs, and I repeated to

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safety the words *ma câné*, (there are no more) without ever being able to convince this obstinate fool.

In other circumstances his importunity became still greater. It was no longer supportable, and we got so out of all patience, that we resolved to listen to him no longer, and even to speak sharply to him. But this man being already ill-disposed towards us, revenged himself for our conduct; he leagued more and more with Sidy Hamet, and the reports which they soon began to make to the Cheik Beirouc, with the intention of doing us all the injury in their power, contributed, I am well persuaded, in a great measure to excite the latter against us.

The third day after our arrival at Ouadnoun had hardly began to dawn, when Beirouc, accompanied by an unknown chief, came to visit us. This chief asked to what nation we belonged, and his numerous questions proved to us that he was not destitute of notions on the existence in Africa of some agents of Christian powers. He spoke to us several times of Mogadore and Soueirah. This word Soueirah did not fail to attract my attention; and I immediately recollected the continual cry of the Ouadlims; we had soon no longer any reason to doubt but that these two names designated the same city; this fortunate discovery made us conceive, from that moment, the first hope of being enabled to give information of our misfortune to some European agent.*

We could no longer doubt, notwithstanding the uncertainty of our situation, that interest would exercise more empire than hatred over the mind of Beirouc, for the money which he might obtain from us could alone satisfy his desires. We therefore assured him, without presuming too much to hope for it ourselves, that he would receive money at Mogadore, provided he gave us the liberty to write and to implore assistance. He at first appeared to doubt our promises, but he at last acceded to our proposition. A sheet of paper which he gave us, and which had been saved from the wreck, and the pencil which I had so fortunately preserved, became our first means of deliverance. We were only about 200 miles from Mogadore; but this distance, from what was told us, became immense, from the difficulties of communication; we had, besides, but very confused information respecting the actual relationship of Europe with that city, and, I repeat, we were above all in a state of absolute

* Is it not greatly to be wished that the names of cities, such as they are pronounced in the country itself, should be found indicated in the maps? Had we but known that Soueirah and Mogadore were one and the same place, how much painful anxiety would have been spared, not only to us, but to many previous sufferers!

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ignorance as to the steps which might formerly have been taken by persons whose misfortunes were similar to ours. Every thing then became the subject of the greatest anxiety, and the existence of the European agent, to whom we were about to apply, was itself a problem.

At all hazards, M. Mexia conjectured, from the commerce which formerly existed between Lisbon and Mogadore, that there might still be found a Portuguese consul at the latter port, and he, therefore, resolved to write to him. On my part, fearing that less extended maritime relations than those of England would not permit France to have an agent there also, I did not hesitate addressing myself to the English consul, whose presence appeared to me more certain. In our dreadful situation it was necessary we should not be mistaken, and the want of assistance became every day more pressing; I therefore, with a pencil, wrote in haste to the English consul, who to me was only an imaginary being, the following letter:—

"To the English Consul at Mogadore.

Sir, *Ouadnoun, July 4th*, 1819.

The French ship the *Sophia*, which left Nantes for Brazil on the 14th of May last, has been wrecked on the coast of Africa. For upwards of a month, two Portuguese and four Frenchmen, who formed part of her passengers, are now suffering, in the desert, privations and torments which it is impossible to describe. I implore, in their name and my own, that assistance which your humanity cannot fail to grant them in their dreadful misfortune. Money alone appears likely to effect our deliverance, and I shall render myself responsible for all my unfortunate companions for whatever sum may be necessary for that purpose, and which I hope you will consent to advance. I have been enabled to save some valuable jewels from the grasp of our plunderers, and they will serve in part for your reimbursement. I refer you to M. Labouchère, the brother-in-law of Messrs. Barings of London, and of the house of Delessert, of Paris. If I had been aware of the existence of an agent of my own country, should naturally have preferred writing to him; but my uncertainty, in this respect, has determined me to address myself to you. We are all persuaded that, in the situation which you hold, you will excuse the step we have taken; and six unfortunate individuals place their hope and confidence in the generosity of an Englishman."

My letter and that of M. Mexia being terminated, Beirouc assured us, but with an ironical laugh, which made us doubt his intention, that he would immediately order a Moor to carry

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them to their destination, and he announced to us that it required only ten days to obtain a reply, if we really had any persons at Soueirah who would interest themselves about us. Thus our residence at Ouadnoun was still prolonged, and a delay of ten days might become mortal. Beirouc had already deceived us, by saying that we should remain only three days with him, and it was natural to think that he might still be deceiving us in promising to send off our letters. Besides, in the event of their being delivered, we had reason to fear that these letters, written with a pencil and unsealed, would be found entirely illegible by those persons from whom we solicited assistance. This anxiety became a new source of misery to us, and appeared too well founded when the ten days were elapsed without receiving any fresh promises.

A merchant, who arrived at this period from the desert, with some articles which had belonged to us, furnished me with an opportunity of confirming Beirouc in the idea that we had money at our disposal at Mogadore. Among these articles I recognised, as having belonged to me, a hair chain mounted in gold, for which he asked only four piastres; I prevailed upon Beirouc to purchase it at that price, by promising him twenty on my arrival at Mogadore. He immediately took the chain, laughing, and gave it to me, saying, he would rely upon my promise. This circumstance, which appeared insignificant in itself, and which I have only mentioned because it will be called in question hereafter, did not fail to operate in the mind of Beirouc. It became favourable at the moment, even for my companions as well as myself, by the gaiety with which it inspired Beirouc, to whom we were now indebted for the first morsel of animal food that we had received, and which he brought us himself.

But this good humour was but transitory; twelve days had now elapsed, and still no reply to our letters had arrived; we began to regard our fears as realised, and imagined that Beirouc had other intentions respecting us of which we were ignorant. He redoubled his severity and bad treatment; our food became less abundant, but above all much worse; Messrs. Mexia and Souza hardly partook of any, and M. Chalumeau, hitherto so resigned, began to loathe it entirely. We addressed our complaints to Beirouc, but in vain; our dissatisfaction excited the gaiety of Sidy Hamet and his companions, and our bad treatment was redoubled. A whole day we were left without food, while in the torment of devouring hunger. In the middle of the night, with our eyes fixed on the door of our dreary dungeon, we still expected it; we reckoned the hours and the minutes, but the barbarians outside roared with laughter on hearing our complaints. The entire night passed away, and our inhuman tormentors, for

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the first time, made a cruel sport of inflicting upon us this additional suffering.

The next day we received the ration of the preceding; this day became also remarkable by the arrival of some Jews. Beirouc led them into our dungeon, and they examined us with great attention. This visit, and the examination which these Jews made of our persons, gave us the idea that they were about to sell us. This idea particularly struck M. Chalumeau, and he expressed to me his fears on that account, at the same time telling me that he dreaded, after being sold, that they would conduct him to Algiers. This apprehension, and particularly the manner in which he expressed himself, astonished me. M. Chalumeau had always shown a resignation and courage beyond all example, and this day, for the first time only, I thought I could discover, through a wandering air, and an extreme depression of spirits, the certain signs of a derangement in his intellectual faculties.

The following day afforded me the melancholy proof that I had not been mistaken in my opinion. M. Chalumeau, profiting by the liberty granted him sometimes of going out alone, went out to take a walk in the heat of the day; his prolonged absence alarmed us, and M. Scheult went to seek for him. He found him, and they both returned together; but he was in a state of extraordinary feebleness, and to all the questions which we addressed to him, he replied in the most incoherent manner; he afterwards sat mournfully down on the threshold of the door of our dungeon; the sun entered a little into it at that time, and shone obliquely on his head. At this moment we had around us our usual circle of inquisitive persons; Sidy Hamet, El-Abaid, and Beirouc were also there; Sidy Hamet was about two paces from poor Chalumeau; all at once this young man cast a wild look upon him, uttered a horrible cry, and remained immoveable, his eyes fixed on the author of his misery. Sidy Hamet departed evidently frightened, and all the Moors, equally alarmed, arose immediately, and precipitately took their departure.

We instantly flew to the assistance of our unfortunate companion, who had just fallen senseless on the ground; we raised him up, but all to no purpose: he turned pale, staggered, and again fell into our arms; we persuaded ourselves that his disorder proceeded solely from his weakness; but a minute afterwards, having recovered his strength, he arose with force, and, by his words and actions, proved to us beyond all doubt that he had lost the use of his reason, without having lost the conviction of his misfortune.

In the middle of our dungeon was a rising of the ground, which represented a camp bed; M. Chalumeau suddenly got upon it, and holding out his hands with an expression of joy mixed with grief,

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he regarded us alternately, and then cried out: "My dear friends, we are delivered at last, and to-morrow we shall set out for Mogadore; God protects us, my dear Scheult; I have just seen M. Lequen, the owner of your vessel, and spoken to him. At least, do not believe that I am become a madman; no, my friends, I have all my senses about me." Unfortunately, the poor young man had lost them for ever. After having spoken, an inconceivable frenzy laid hold of him, and he again fell to the ground, a prey to the most violent convulsions. What assistance could we render? we had only water to offer him.

This frightful event appeared to excite a momentary compassion in the breast of Beirouc; for soon afterwards he brought a leg of mutton, and told us to boil it. This was the second time, since our arrival, that we had meat given to us, and the satisfaction which we experienced on that account, was for the sake of our patients. We were furnished with a pot, Affilé went out to seek some wood among the palm-trees, and M. Scheult prepared, in the middle of the court, that repast which we flattered ourselves would produce a happy effect upon the mind of M. Chalumeau.

Towards four o'clock in the evening he revived a little, and without speaking to us, testified a wish to walk out into the court; we led him out accordingly, supporting him by the arm; the brightness of the day made him feel unwell; but the sight of Sidy Hamet, who was lying on the carpet, renewed his frenzy. A suppressed rage suddenly seized upon him as soon as he perceived him, and he again rolled his wild and menacing eyes on the man whom he looked upon as the author of all our misery. He walked at a great pace, kicked down with his foot the pot which contained our meat, and became frightful even to ourselves. Beirouc, who unexpectedly made his appearance at this moment, pushed him rudely, in order to force him back into the cell. In vain we implored him to respect that misfortune of which he was the cause; he only increased his violence, and M. Chalumeau, driven to desperation, escaped from us, and running with all his might into the cell, dashed his head against the wall.

However, notwithstanding the violence of the blow, he received but a slight wound; but this action determined us to take the greatest precautions respecting him, and consequently we were obliged to have recourse to the painful and rigorous extremity of binding him with cords. For several days he remained in this dreadful situation, deprived of all reason, and having his jaws fast locked. His sufferings were unexampled, and he could no longer express them but by horrible contortions.

On the 19th of July, while M. Scheult, Affilé, and myself were in the court, there suddenly entered a Moor in a state of great

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perspiration, and covered over with dust, who immediately handed three letters to Beirouc. The cheik examined them, kept one for himself, gave the second to one of the Jews who were near him, and calling to me, he desired me to read the address of the third, which he could not understand. How great was my happiness! This address was my own, and written in my own language!

Our happiness being communicated to Messrs. Mexia and Souza, they instantly jumped out of their bed of affliction, and dragged themselves towards us in the best way they could. Then, with an agitation I had never before felt so lively, I tore off the envelope of that letter, which was no doubt to put a term to our misfortunes. It was not from the English consul, but from the agent himself of France at Mogadore, and was as follows:—

"To M. Cochelet, at Ouadnoun,

Sir, *Mogadore, 13th July*, 1819.

Mr. Wiltshire, the English vice-consul in this city, has remitted to me the letter which you had written to him of the 4th instant, by which, in the supposition that no French agent existed here, you inform him of the melancholy event which has plunged you and your unfortunate companions in slavery. I shall immediately write to Tangier, and communicate by express to M. Sourdeau, Consul-general and Chargé d'Affaires of the King of France in the empire of Morocco, requesting him to furnish me with instructions and orders for your ransom, and that of the three other Frenchmen. At the same time I shall also communicate this event to the Consul-general of Portugal, of whom I am also the agent, that he may, in like manner, give me his orders for the release of the two Portuguese who are amongst your number. Nevertheless, as I wish to contribute for my own part, as much as lies in my power, to effect your speedy ransom, and, as I confide entirely in your word, and in the respectable references given in your letter to Mr. Wiltshire, I shall instantly charge a confidential person to endeavour secretly to obtain your release, in a body, upon reasonable terms; I shall have no difficulty in making the necessary advances to this effect, even before receiving the authorization of the Consul-general. In the meantime, gentlemen, let me beg of you all to have a little patience, for you may conceive the difficulties to be encountered in passing contracts with such people; and, at the same time, I earnestly entreat you, for your own interest, to take great care not to communicate to the Cheik Beirouc, either your condition, or what I have just written to you. Should he question you as to the contents of my letter, you can reply to him that I have written to you, to say that I am about to communicate your misfortune

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to the Consul-general, and that I can do nothing without receiving his orders.

I beg of you, sir, to have the kindness to present my respects to your companions, and assure them that I shall do every thing in my power to deliver you from the painful situation in which you are placed. I am, &c.

A. B. Casaccia,
Agent of the Consul-general of France.

P. S.—I refrain from sending you some small articles which might be useful to you, because that would be injurious to your ransom."

This letter alone discovered to us our real situation: indeed, before receiving it, we never imagined to ourselves, although prisoners, that we were really slaves. But at the same time we obtained the assurance that steps were about to be taken to restore us to liberty. The Jew, to whom Beirouc had also remitted a letter, soon after confirmed this assurance. After reading it, he regarded us with an air which indicated a wish to speak to us; and the absence of Beirouc, at that time, soon gave us an opportunity. Then Amenahem (the name of the Jew) approaching towards us in a mysterious manner, and by a mixture of Arabic and English, gave us to understand, that he was the person whom M. Casaccia had charged to make propositions for our ransom. I also thought he said, every thing was going on as we could wish, and that in all probability we should set out in two days for Mogadore, under his protection.

The interest which was thus testified for us, made us forget all the evils we had suffered, and which were no longer felt at this moment, but on account of M. Chalumeau. Nevertheless, I conceived the hope, that if we could but succeed in letting him have a glimpse of our approaching deliverance, it might have a favourable effect upon him. With this intention, I placed in his hands the letter which I had just received, and by every possible method I endeavoured to impart into his soul that happiness which so transported mine. But it was then too late; the unfortunate Chalumeau could not understand me. He regarded me with wild looks, seeking in vain to recognize me, and after heaving a profound sigh, his head fell back upon the ground, which was wet with the sweat caused by his raging fever.

Amenahem, moved with compassion at the excess of our misery, boiled us a little meat and gave us some biscuit, the remains of his provisions. He even carried his kindness so far as to make tea for us; nevertheless, this day did not terminate so happily as we imagined. When Amenahem had spoken to me in the morning, I understood him to say, that perhaps we

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should remain only two days at Ouadnoun; and even this short period appeared too long, from the extreme desire we had to quit this odious abode. But what was my dismay, when renewing my conversation with Amenahem in the evening, he coldly intimated to me that, instead of two days, he had meant two months! The dejection of spirits which this explanation caused us, was equal to what we would have felt by the irrevocable decree of death. If our despair cannot be depicted, neither can we give any idea of the undisturbed tranquillity of our honest Jew, when he saw the effect which this melancholy intelligence produced upon us. His *sang-froid* was inconceivable. Without shewing the least emotion, or changing his countenance, he exhorted us to patience, and repeated more than twenty times, in order to tranquillize us, his favourite word, *choui, choui,* (softly, softly.)

Nevertheless, how was it possible to suppose that during two whole months we could support privations which we were no longer ignorant of, and which might every day threaten to put an end to our existence! There was no time for hesitation. I immediately resolved to write to M. Casaccia. Amenahem had occasion to send a Jew to Mogadore the following morning upon business, and I thought this private messenger might also take charge of my letter.

It was eleven at night; all the Arabs, with the exception of Hamar, were asleep. Amenahem brought us a lamp; and by the feeble light which it threw in our dungeon on my afflicted companions, I wrote, with the same pencil as formerly, a letter of the most pressing and earnest nature. I implored him to write to us, and without waiting for uncertain news from Tangier, to shorten by every means in his power the term of our captivity.

Amenahem sent off the Jew who was the bearer of my letter, at a very early hour, accompanied by a Moor; for the Jews never travel in that country unless they are under some protection. Amenahem himself took his departure, but not without promising that he would return in a few days, and remain in the environs of Ouadnoun, to watch over our interests.

With him vanished all our consolation; the approaching end of M. Chalumeau presaged to us the melancholy fate which each of us had to expect. His disorder made rapid progress. The cords which bound him could no longer contain him. In a paroxysm of unexampled frenzy, he dragged himself into all the corners of our frightful prison; struck his head against the ground, which he dug with his teeth, and presented to us, during the day, the horrible spectacle of his face besmeared with blood and covered with sand. During the night the silence

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was troubled only by his doleful groanings; and those of our comrades who could enjoy a little sleep, were often awakened by the convulsions of this unfortunate young man, who was in the last agonies of his cruel disorder.

I cannot recal to my mind, without emotion, the eve of that day which was to terminate such dreadful torments. A feeble glimmering of light scarcely illumined our dark abode, when we perceived him on his knees, with folded hands, by the side of M. Mexia. He had been enabled to drag himself so far, and a few moments of calmness, in the midst of his cruel torments, had restored to him a part of that reason which he had so long lost. For six hours he had not uttered a single word; what, therefore, was our surprize when we heard him, in a voice almost extinct, articulate these words, which were the last he ever uttered: "Dear sir, since I must die, tell me, at least, what hope there is for me beyond the grave." In pronouncing these words, his attitude was supplicating, and we saw that he recollected M. Mexia was an ecclesiastic; poor fellow! he was seeking to obtain from him those consolations reserved for the dying Christian!

But alas! he could no longer receive them. The most violent paroxysm seized upon him immediately; besides, he was addressing himself to another dying man, who was no longer in a state to listen to him. M. Mexia, who was in great suffering, became daily more exhausted, and considered his speedy death as certain. The state of M. Souza was also very alarming: within the last two days he had become insensible, and we were afraid of losing him also.

M. Chalumeau struggled with death till the morning of the 30th of July. At the moment of his agony, Sidy Hamet and Beirouc thought they might still save him; and an old woman, attracted to the spot by the rattling of his throat, succeeded, notwithstanding our warm opposition, in wrenching open his teeth and pouring into his mouth some melted fat, which soon put an end to our unfortunate companion, who breathed almost at the instant his last sigh.

His lips had hardly ceased to move, ere Beirouc imperiously commanded us to inter him immediately. The spectacle of so horrid a death exciting in us the most marked indignation against those men who were the authors of it, we at first refused to execute this inhuman order. But this unmerciful chief adding menaces to his insensibility, thought no doubt he would soon prevail upon us by crying out, in the most furious manner, "Why do you hesitate? Begone! many Christians before you have been interred at Ouadnoun, and English, Spaniards, and other Europeans, have here long since found their graves."

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There were only three of us in a state to render the last sad duties to our unfortunate companion, viz. M. Scheult, Affilé, and myself; but our weakness was still so great, that we despaired of being able to carry him. I requested some of Beirouc's servants to assist us, but they all drew back with horror at the sight of the inanimate corpse of a Christian. At last however, a negro reluctantly consented to lend his aid.

Having arrived at the most awful period of this catastrophe, expressions fail me to describe it in all its truth; tears are all that are left me to deplore that grievous event. What reader can be so insensible as not to be himself affected, when he represents to his mind our mournful funeral procession, slowly descending the streets of Ouadnoun in solemn silence, in the midst of a crowd of people whom we could with difficulty force our way through, and who replied to our tears by the most insulting mockery! Hamar alone appeared moved by our affliction. Accompanied by an Arab, he walked before us, carrying a sort of pick-axe over his shoulder, and directing us the way to the sepulchre. We were obliged to stop at every moment, through excessive exhaustion; and by means of the cords which had served to bind him, we dragged, much more than carried, the disfigured body of the unfortunate companion whom we had so much loved! We arrived in this manner at the place where we were to bury him. It was on the top of a little hill, to the north-west of the city, and near the dried up bed of the river Noun. More than fifty graves of unfortunate Christians presented themselves to our view. The heaps of stones by which they were covered, alone distinguished them, and were the sole sepulchral ornaments of these dead. For once our cruel tormentors had not deceived us, for we had now before our eyes the graves of his early victims.

If their departed spirits could implore vengeance, to what civilized nation might they not address themselves? For assuredly all have furnished their melancholy contingents to this ungrateful land, and a Frenchman was perhaps, until then, alone wanting to this European cemetery in Africa.

It was our lot, if such was the case, to depose the ashes of the first. We dug, in gloomy despair, the grave which was to contain his remains, and Hamar assisted us in fulfilling this painful duty. Who was to be the next object among us to follow our unfortunate companion? We had no longer any hope left but to address our prayers to the Almighty; and all of us prostrated ourselves on his grave, bedewing it with our tears. Ah! no doubt in this solemn moment our prayers ascended to the Divinity, who deigned to cast down a favourable look upon us. What beings, indeed, more unfortunate, had a greater claim to

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his protection and assistance? The sight of three unhappy creatures, kneeling in the midst of the dead, having before their eyes the dreadful view of an immense desert, and the almost certain prospect of being soon buried themselves on the spot where they knelt, was surely an affecting picture, in the eyes of God, of man struggling with adversity! The companion whom we mourned was no longer an object of pity; but the situation of those who survived him was dreadful in the extreme. We knew then in what wild spot, if we perished, our mortal remains would rest; we knew what agony we must suffer before we died; we knew above all, and this idea made us shudder, that the last of us who should perish, having no more Christian hands to bury him, would be abandoned, without sepulchre, as an object of horror and execration.

Agitated by these melancholy reflections, we returned to Messrs. Mexia and Souza, who appeared at that time to be designed by fate as fresh victims. During the rest of the day, the most mournful depression reigned around us: and we honoured, by a solemn silence, the memory of a companion who was worthy of all our regrets.

CHAPTER VII.

Sidy Hamet receives his money and departs.—Effect of his calumnies on the mind of Beirouc.—Impatience of the sufferers.—Beirouc redoubles his inhumanity towards them.—Their misery.—Return of Amenahem.—Joy of the sufferers on learning that their deliverance is at hand.—Arrival of two messengers from the empire of Morocco.—Preparations for departure.—Beirouc endeavours to detain M. Cochelet.—Hamar ransoms him.—The sufferers quit Ouadnoun.

It was in the midst of our affliction for the loss of M. Chalumeau that Sidy Hamet received from Beirouc the price agreed upon with the latter for our purchase. On the evening of the same day which had witnessed a death that so cruelly affected us, the avaricious Sidy Hamet took care to shut the door of the court; and having only ourselves for spectators, he was laughingly engaged, with the aid of Seid and El-Abaid, who had also their share, in counting the money which he received from Beirouc. They were paid in all about one hundred pounds in small silver coin, besides receiving several camels, and a quantity of clothing. It appeared that Sidy Hamet was only proprietor of four of us, and that the other two had no doubt

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another master, of whom Seid and El-Abaid were the representatives.

I only then understood that these men had prolonged their stay merely because they waited their payment. Sidy Hamet was now as anxious to depart, as we were to get rid of him. He trembled, not without some reason, lest death, by again extending its ravages amongst us, should furnish Beirouc with a motive for eluding his engagements. The sight of the sufferings of Messrs. Mexia and Souza alarmed him exceedingly, and he eagerly pressed his claims. Happy in being enabled to carry away the price of this inhuman traffic, and trembling with joy and impatience, he mounted his camel, and took the road to the desert, casting a last look upon us, without uttering a word, expressive of his indifference and disdain.

The departure of this man, as well as that of Seid and El-Abaid, who accompanied him, relieved us from an enormous oppression. But their formidable influence had lost us in the estimation of the master in whose power we remained. Beirouc no longer looked upon us but with a sort of horror, and always avoided our approach. Neither he, nor the other Moors, any longer visited us; or, if they came sometimes, attracted by an irresistible curiosity, it was only to express the disgust with which we inspired them. Since the death of M. Chalumeau they appeared to dread even the air which surrounded us, and those who conquered their repugnance, by the insatiable desire of testifying their aversion, remained at the door of our cell, in order to have a look at us, affecting to stop their mouths with their *haiques*, that they might not inhale the same atmosphere!

The delay which took place in releasing us caused Beirouc to redouble his ill-treatment. The certainty of receiving a ransom could alone excite humane sentiments in his mind; we had, therefore, much to fear from the forlorn state in which we were left. Amenahem had promised that he would only be absent four days, and more than fifteen had now elapsed in the anxious expectation of a return which comprised our only hope. In our impatience we reckoned every minute of the day, and every day was chalked up on the wall of our dreary abode. The month of August passed away entirely without receiving any intelligence, and the promised deliverance appeared to us then only an illusion. Our situation became insupportable; Hamar alone endeavoured to sustain our courage, by the pity which he showed for us; but of what avail was it when unceasingly tormented by the most dreadful hunger; we were now reduced to the necessity of imploring that food which the very beasts had refused.

It was impossible to sustain such treatment longer. M.

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Mexia, above all, was unable to partake of the disgusting food which was given us: I endeavoured to remonstrate with Beirouc, but he more and more shunned our presence. For two days I remained at the door of his house, in expectation of seeing him, and, notwithstanding his efforts to escape my sight, I succeeded in joining him and making known the despair which his inhumanity spread amongst us. "What is your motive," said I to him, "in treating us with so much rigour? already one of our comrades has miserably perished; and two others will, ere long, be delivered from your power by the hand of death. Your interest requires you to preserve our lives. Allow yourself to be swayed by this consideration, if the spectacle of our misery cannot soften your obdurate heart."

The manner in which Beirouc received these remonstrances, dictated by real sorrow, chilled me with fear and surprise. While he listened to me with impatience, his blood boiled in his veins, his features became discomposed, and altogether he appeared in a most frightful light. He approached towards me with a menacing air, looked at me disdainfully for a moment, and then cried out, in the most violent fury, pointing to Heaven and earth alternately with his hand: "*What does all this mean! if you die, my people will bury you; it will then be the will of God!*"

Irritated myself by so barbarous a reply, I left him without being able to conceal my disgust. But this man was inconceivable; the variations of his temper equalled the changeableness of his features. Shortly after this scene, which made me dread his anger, he sent us a piece of camels' flesh, and told me, through Hamar, to go and join him in his garden. I went accordingly; and my surprise was extreme, when Beirouc invited me to come with him and his sons, and gather grapes under a vine arbour, about three feet above the ground. It was necessary to kneel for that purpose, and in this position I found myself, a few minutes after encountering his rage, tranquilly placed by the side of a man who could decide our fate by an effect of his fiery temper, as easily as he could preserve our lives by a caprice of benevolence. Beirouc permitted me to take to my companions part of the grapes that I had gathered, with which we made a delicious repast. Never in any country have I seen such beautiful grapes as at Ouadnoun, where, however, they grow in small quantities.

The same day, the Cheik Ibrahim granted us also the favour to enter into his garden; this privilege was entirely owing to the care which we took of a repeating-watch, which he had purchased without knowing the use of it. His pleasure was to make it strike, and on hearing it he would display all the rap-

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tures of a child. But so slight a motive caused us the very next day to lose the transient good graces of Beirouc. The desire of having a watch like his brother's induced him to purchase one from an Arab, who was passing through Ouadnoun; this watch had formerly, as well as the other, been our property, and he now requested our opinion as to its good quality. Unfortunately I assured him, without examining it, that he might rely upon its being a good one. When the watch was in his possession, Beirouc endeavoured to wind it up, but could not succeed, for the main-spring was broken. The person who sold it was gone, and his rage, therefore, naturally fell upon me; he became furious, accused me with having deceived him, and this circumstance was the cause of new privations.

At this epoch two rich merchants arrived at Ouadnoun from the empire of Morocco. One of them was to set out the next day for Mogadore. I profited by the occasion again to write to M. Casaccia in the language of the greatest despair; but the strongest expressions appeared feeble in the eyes of my comrades, to represent the urgency of the assistance which we expected.—"Sir," said I to him, "I write less to inform you of the death of M. Chalumeau, than that which awaits Messrs. Mexia and Souza. It is the fate which ere long will befal us all; happy should we feel if one only could escape from it, so as to be enabled to reach Mogadore, and convince you verbally of the extent of the misery which we have suffered. It is painful to think that our situation has been aggravated from the moment we commenced a correspondence with the agent of our own government."

These unjust reproaches, M. Casaccia did not merit. But we were then ignorant of the difficulties which our ransom presented, and which were quite independent of his will.

The day after the departure of the merchant with my letter, Beirouc passed me on horseback, and intimated to me that a *French Mussulman*, whom he had that moment quitted, would come and see us the following day. I should never have been able to understand what he said, had not Hamar explained to me, that there resided in the next village one of our countrymen who had turned Mussulman, and had lived there upwards of thirty years. This Frenchman having been shipwrecked on the coast of the desert at the age of fourteen, was unable to resist the ascendancy which the Mussulmen exercised over his youth, and felt himself in consequence obliged to abandon his religion. He had afterwards married, and employed himself, with the aid of some negroes whom he had purchased, in manufacturing gunpowder, for which he found a great sale among the Moors.*

* See Introduction.

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The hope of seeing a countryman, even a renegado, caused us real pleasure. We reckoned upon finding in him a favourable interpreter, if, as we expected, he had not entirely forgotten his maternal language; but, alas! he never came. Perhaps the Cheik Beirouc, having remarked the joy which this intelligence caused, wished to deprive us of a satisfaction which would have afforded us so much enjoyment.

We now felt more than ever the want of consolation; thirty-six days had painfully elapsed in the expectation of news from Mogadore. Beirouc often told us that the plague was then raging in the empire of Morocco, and that all the Christians had embarked to return to their own country. He added, that we need no longer cherish any hope of being ransomed, at least for a long period, and spoke of compelling us to labour, in order to relieve him from an useless burden.

Beirouc renewed his inhuman treatment, and left us entirely without nourishment. Continually devoured by hunger, we sought every means of appeasing it, and went daily into the gardens to implore the commiseration of the Moors who were cultivating them. Many of these Mussulmen, less insensible than their chief, were sometimes moved with our misery; and when we warmly solicited them, they would throw us some figs upon the ground, from the tops of the trees where they were mounted, which we would run to pick up. An old negro, above all, who had the care of one of the most considerable gardens, rarely failed calling me when I passed, in order to give me some figs and tobacco-leaves, which I would endeavour to bring into our dungeon unknown to Beirouc.

On the morning of the 5th of September I had made an unsuccessful turn in the gardens, and was returning mournfully to my companions. My feebleness had become so great, that in walking, my head was involuntarily bent towards the ground, where I was in danger of falling every moment. I succeeded with great difficulty in gaining the court adjoining our cell, when, to my great surprise, I perceived immoveable before me the quiet Amenahem, so impatiently expected during forty days.

I could hardly believe my own eyes on beholding this worthy Jew, with whom rested all our hopes. He regarded me with a smile, and without uttering a single word. I was merely convinced that his presence was not an illusion, when my comrades remitted to me two letters which he had just brought, bearing my address. They had had the patience to wait my coming without reading them. Certainly, if an indiscretion can be excusable, it is in a similar circumstance, when unfortunate beings hold in their hands, for a quarter of an hour, a sealed paper enclosing a decree which is to be decisive of their fate.

I had long been accustomed to strong emotions; nevertheles

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none had yet approached what I now felt on breaking open the first of these letters. I soon devoured its contents; but the joy which I experienced prevented me from speaking, or communicating to my attentive and impatient companions what it contained. "Well!" cried they all at once, "are we at last free, or must we decidedly die here?"—"We shall soon be free, my friends," said I; "here, read for yourselves; let us no longer doubt, we shall soon be restored to our native country."

M. Scheult took the letter from my hands, and read in a loud voice as follows:

"To M. Cochelet, at Ouadnoun,

"Sir, *Mogadore, 27th August*, 1819.

I have the honour to inform you, that, in consequence of the representations made to the court of Morocco, by Messrs. Sourdeau and Colaço, his majesty has given orders to his alcaid at Sus, to ransom you at any price, and to send you hither. I have at this moment received letters from the emperor, and I shall hasten to transmit them to the governor by an express. At the same time I shall send a courier to my agent to suspend your ransom, if he has not yet succeeded in obtaining it.

Communicate the contents of my letter to your unfortunate companions; and in the hope of being able soon to felicitate you in person,

I am, &c.

Casaccia.

When the reading of this letter was finished, it was no longer possible to contain ourselves. It was not only joy, it was folly which turned our brains. We were no longer masters of our transports, and in shaking each other by the hand a thousand times we felicitated one another on the happy intelligence which thus snatched us from the jaws of death.

But our noisy demonstrations might have been attended with serious consequences. Amenahem, who enjoyed our satisfaction in his own way, that is to say, very tranquilly, advised us by all means to conceal the happiness which we experienced, and recommended to us, above all, to acquaint nothing of it to the Cheik Beirouc, whose eldest son had approached with the intention of observing us. At the same time, Amenahem required me to read the other letter of M. Casaccia.

This letter, of an earlier date than the other, made no mention of our deliverance, but contained details to warn us against the despot who retained us in his power, recommending us to use dissimulation towards him on all occasions. We therefore guarded the most absolute silence respecting our intended ransom, and Amenahem mounted his mule and departed from

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Ouadnoun, telling us we should see him no more, because the Emperor being charged with our ransom, he had no longer the right to act in our interests. He did not leave us, however, without remitting to me some small pieces of money, which might assist in supporting us a few days longer, and which I promised to re-imburse him on my arrival at Mogadore. Amenahem had not come merely with letters from M. Casaccia; he had brought also a supply of tea and sugar for Beirouc, and in this way he concealed the real motive of his journey.

It was natural to think that orders given so imperatively by the emperor, would be executed at the very moment in which they reached the men to whom they were addressed. We made no doubt of the prompt arrival of the assistance which was to be sent us from Tarodant, the ancient capital of the kingdom of Sus. We were only three days journey from that city where El-Caid El-Djellaly, governor of the province, resided. It was then natural to expect fresh news four days after the receipt of the letter of M. Casaccia. Our feeble resources could last us until then; but, after that period, a day longer passed in expectation, would become a day of wretchedness, by the destitute state in which Beirouc would certainly leave us.

Being persuaded, besides, that we should not be ransomed, this chief meditated some dark project against us. On no occasion had I seen him worse disposed towards us: he shunned us more and more. Five days elapsed since the receipt of that intelligence which he was ignorant of, when he came to me and said, that fatigued with keeping us so long uselessly, he was now about to take violent measures with us. Never was our situation more serious; and it was on the very eve, perhaps, of our being restored to liberty, that we were about to become victims to his cruel determination. In order to calm the wrath of this formidable chief, I used every means in my power. I renewed the assurance that every interest would be shewn us, and implored him, as a last favour, to grant us three days more, after which, if he received no intelligence, he might then give way to all the excesses which the violence of his anger might suggest to him. Beirouc consented to this arrangement, which could alone calm him at the moment.

We had reached the seventh day after the receipt of the letter; two of the three days of grace granted by the cheik had expired, and yet the orders of the emperor seemed to remain unexecuted. The eighth day arrived, and still no hope, no intelligence to explain this inconceivable delay; full of alarm, we expected that the menaces of Beirouc would be put in execution, when, about noon, the Cheik Ibrahim entered into our court, with an air of satisfaction, and announced to us that two Moors,

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sent by the Emperor Soliman, waited for us at his house. We had sufficient force to disguise the joy which we felt at this intelligence, thus so suddenly announced to us, and M. Scheult and myself prepared to follow the cheik, whose scrutinizing eye sought to discover on our countenances whether we had already been informed of the interest which the Sultan displayed for us; my other companions were in too suffering a condition to go with us; being hardly able to move, they remained in that dismal abode, supporting their cruel fate with the utmost resignation.

The Cheik Ibrahim lived in the tower which commanded Ouadnoun. As soon as we entered it, we perceived, in a corner of a small room, and lying on a carpet, the two Moors who had desired to see us. They were well clothed, and held chaplets in their hands, with which they were continually playing; they regarded us with an air of benevolence, announced to us, with much emphasis, that the Sultan consented to ransom us, and at the same time intimated that we could not be too grateful for such an act of kindness in this monarch.

Beirouc, seated by the side of the two Moors, appeared gloomy and thoughtful; however, he joined in the conversation, which immediately commenced respecting the price which was put upon us. The disputes grew very warm on both sides; but we were not long left to witness them, for they desired us to depart.

In the evening, the Cheik Ibrahim came to drink tea with his brother, and the same disputes again took place between them, in presence of two Moors of Ouadnoun. Beirouc sent for M. Scheult and myself, and we became witnesses to another discussion, the cause of which I was unable to understand. The two cheiks were animated with the greatest fury against each other; but this rage, which the Moors present endeavoured to calm, did not prevent them, to our extreme astonishment, from offering us tea, of which they drank abundantly themselves. It was curious, in the midst of their disputes and their cries, to see them with their muskets in one hand and their cups in the other.

However, the Cheik Beirouc, to whom his brother appeared to have ceded, soon became appeased. He took a board, and marked some figures upon it with a reed. It was at length agreed, that three independent Moors should set out from Ouadnoun for Tarodant; that those of the Emperor should remain as hostages, and not depart with us until the arrival of the money required for our ransom.

After this determination, three Moors, selected by Beirouc, mounted on horseback the next morning by day-break, and departed for Tarodant. The beauty of the horses chosen for this expedition, and the richness of their harness, gave us reason to

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think that the cheiks of Ouadnoun were anxious that the Moors, who lived under their dominion, should appear with a certain eclat on the territory of the empire.

At the point in which matters had now arrived, we were led to expect a less severe treatment; but alas! we were greatly deceived. The Cheik Beirouc appeared furious that our ransom should be effected through the medium of the Emperor. Notwithstanding his independence, commercial relations between Morocco and the desert obliged him to observe a certain kind of respect, when war was not declared between the two countries. He thus found himself constrained to limit his pretensions to the price which he required for our persons; whilst he had conceived the hope, by treating directly with a consul, of giving a free scope to his avidity. Discontented with a proceeding which in no way suited him, Beirouc persisted in treating us with the same rigour, and he made us feel in a manner, perhaps still more cruel, the barbarity of a slavery which was soon likely to terminate.

It required strength to support this slavery to the end, and our feebleness, which every instant augmented, left us but little hope of being able to do so, if we were still to pass many days in the same misery. Those of my companions who, like myself, were not decidedly ill, could hardly walk; and as to M. Mexia, he had never been in a state of so much suffering; for some time we looked upon him as dead, and the idea that he might himself perish at Ouadnoun, at the moment of our being restored to liberty, embittered his sufferings.

In these circumstances it was reserved for Hamar to save us. This excellent young man, remarking the despair which the cruelty of Beirouc caused us, came to me on the evening of the departure of the Moors for Tarodant, put three piastres into my hand, and addressed me as follows: "Charles, accept this money, dispose of it for the purpose of secretly purchasing that food which Beirouc refuses you; had I at my disposal a more considerable sum, I should offer it you; but up to this hour the cheik has not thought proper to pay me the wages which he owes me, almost entirely from the day that I entered into his service."

This generous proceeding on the part of Hamar astonished me; it was so little in conformity with the character of a Moor. I thanked him a thousand times, and would have refused this unexpected offer, but our situation imperiously commanded us to accept it, which I did with the liveliest satisfaction. Yet how was I to requite this obligation? "Have no uneasiness on that score," replied the generous Hamar; "interest has not guided me; nevertheless, if you wish, there is one way by which you can repay me. "How?" cried I eagerly. "By taking me with you," said

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he, "when you depart from Ouadnoun. I have long been fatigued with my residence in this city, but I have learned to know in it the kindness and resignation of Christians. If you find no obstacle attending this step, I shall attach myself to your fate and follow you to your own country."

This proposition of Hamar pleased me exceedingly. In taking him with me I should find it easy to reimburse him on my arrival at Mogadore, and to give him ten times the value of what he had generously advanced me. It was then agreed that Hamar should set out with us; but we equally decided, that in order not to augment the hatred of Beirouc, he should keep the most absolute silence as to his project, and that he should not, until a few days before our departure, solicit from the cheik the permission of revisiting his family, which, after an absence of more than six years, he could not fail to grant.

By this arrangement the interest which Hamar naturally felt for us, and which he had already so often displayed, became still more lively. He continued, unknown to Beirouc, to give us that assistance which in our extreme exhaustion we could no longer dispense with. This assistance restored a part of our strength, and permitted us to look forward with less alarm to the fatigues of another journey. Better and more wholesome food produced wonderful effects upon us all, particularly on Messrs. Mexia and Souza, who now, for the first time, conceived hopes of being able to accompany us. M. Mexia, after having lain in the same place for the space of two months, was now enabled to rise; but his lameness was so great, that he presented the appearance of a skeleton. We ceded to him very little on this point, and the paleness of our visages, increased by our not having used a razor for four months, rendered us frightful in each other's eyes.

More than ten days had now elapsed, and yet the Moors sent to Tarodant had not arrived. The cheiks of Ouadnoun began to feel some uneasiness; and the two Moors detained as hostages knew not how to explain this delay. If any thing could have distracted our attention from the impatience which we felt, there were two events which happened at Ouadnoun, during the last days of our stay there, which powerfully contributed to that effect. The terror which the first spread, and the joy which resulted from the second, rendered both extremely remarkable.

On the 24th of September, at the moment the sun had risen above a horizon covered with vapour, a burning and impetuous wind, proceeding from the south-east across the desert, rushed with great violence upon Ouadnoun. The day previous to this hurricane had been remarkably sultry, so that we could scarcely breathe. Soon a cry of alarm was heard throughout the city,

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and M. Scheult and myself instantly went out. We saw the inhabitants running in all directions, and concealing their faces under their *haiques*, in order to preserve themselves from the fatal effects of a wind which might cause their death; but at the same time they endeavoured to screen themselves from the ravages of another plague which they foresaw was approaching, and to which the first was only the forerunner. Fires were every where lit round the gardens, and, before the enemy arrived, they shouted the most dismal cries, which indicated the dread it inspired. But nothing could prevent its arriving, and we soon discovered numerous black clouds, which spread around us with great impetuosity. An immense multitude of enormous locusts fell down on all sides upon the trees, on the grass, and in the gardens, and threatened in a moment to destroy all vegetation.

The extreme danger of this plague augmented the means of defence. At the sight of these insects, bringing ravage and destruction along with them, the inhabitants kindled larger fires; the cries redoubled in a frightful manner, and at length those devastating swarms departed, and arose successively from all parts, producing, as it were, the noise of a charge of artillery. They soon fled, forming around us clouds so thick and black, that they covered us for a time with their shadow.*

The great joy caused by the departure of this formidable enemy, was equal to the alarm inspired by its sudden appearance. This joy was still further increased by an event of a more gratifying nature, and which appeared to be as little foreseen as the first.

During the night following this day of terror, the thunder never ceased roaring, and the echoes of the neighbouring mountains resounded continually with numerous claps of thunder. This imposing noise was new to us in Africa, and for the first time troubled the tranquillity of a sky, which we had always seen pure and of an azure colour. The atmosphere was covered with clouds, and caused such profound darkness, that nothing could be distinguished. Towards midnight the clouds burst; the rain fell in torrents, threatening to destroy and sweep away the clay houses, which were completely inundated.

By break of day, repeated shouts of joy and enthusiasm struck our ears; and amidst these cries with which the air resounded, we heard the uncommon noise of a torrent rushing with violence at a little distance from our habitation. Curiosity induced us to go out; when we perceived all the population, men, women,

* Among the objects which I have brought from Africa, are two locusts of this species.

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and children, running towards the river Noun, manifesting their joy by the liveliest transports. But how great was our surprise! the bed of this river, which we had always seen dried up; those burning rocks, which during one-half of the year had resisted the rays of the sun, were again covered over with water in such abundance that we perceived only some elevated points, representing little islands adorned with rose-laurel. This water proceeding from the mountains, entirely filled the bed of the torrent, and gave it an imposing aspect. The inhabitants could not too highly appreciate this benefit of Heaven after a long drought; they therefore expressed their gratitude by demonstrations of gaiety so ridiculous, that many women and children entered dancing into the places where the river had the least depth.

The satisfaction manifested from all parts during the rest of the day was so great, that it even sensibly operated upon the mind of Beirouc, who now treated us with less severity. In the evening he once more came and established himself in the court, with his usual circle around him. A conversation, of which we were the object, was not long in taking place, and a few minutes after the cheik made signs for me to come and sit by his side, in order to join in it. He then addressed me as follows:—

"Charles, if the Sultan sends me the money which I require for your ransom and that of your companions, it is probable you will not be long in revisiting your native country. In this supposition, listen then to the project which I have conceived: the power of Soliman, as you well know, cannot reach me here, but an intercourse, occasioned by a considerable trade, obliges me to shew him some respect, and leaves me in a sort of dependance. The productions of the desert cannot find a market but in his dominions; in the same manner that we derive from them those articles which our territory cannot produce.

"It is this dependance, which is become odious to me, that I wish to get rid of. Do you think your captains of vessels, instead of repairing to the ports of the Sultan, at Soueirah, for instance, would consent to steer their course towards that part of the coast where you were shipwrecked; and would there be a possibility in doing so? Judge of the advantages which would result for you, as well as for myself, by a measure which would restore me to perfect liberty! By it, the merchandize brought from your country, and those which the desert produces, would no longer, by passing through the states of Soliman, be subjected to duties which double the value of them. I could, if necessary, load more than twenty of your vessels every year with gum, ostrich feathers, wool, camels' hair,

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goat-skins, and other articles. Mention this when you return to your country, and state the extreme desire I have of realising my design. You could at least announce that the proceeds of your ransom will be employed in building a tower on the very spot where you were ship-wrecked. I shall make of this tower, notwithstanding the distance from Ouadnoum, a depôt of my merchandize, and I shall station there a number of men under my orders.

"At all events, whether my project is approved of by you or not, I have resolved to have some kind of establishment on this remote part of the desert, the barrenness of which does not discourage me. I know that it is often witness to the wreck of your vessels; but until lately I have always been a stranger to the spoils: from henceforth I shall, by extreme vigilance, obtain a share of them."

The latter part of this harangue would be alone sufficient to dissuade any one from treating with such a man. Besides, we could hardly refrain from smiling at the scheme which he projected, when we had begun, in our connexion with him, by being ourselves the first articles of commerce which he proposed to establish in future. Nevertheless, wishing to take advantage of all circumstances which appeared favourable to our situation, I entered completely into his ideas. The joy which he experienced was so real, that he immediately sent Hamar to procure specimens of the merchandize alluded to, and which he would absolutely shew me.

The next morning, about ten o'clock, (it was the 28th of September, and this day, the happiest of my life, will be for ever engraven in my memory,) Hamar came running towards us almost breathless, his countenance expressive of extreme joy, and announced to us that several mules, loaded with money, had arrived from Tarodant at the house of the Cheik Ibrahim, accompanied by an alcaid, and an escort of the Emperor's guard. "The eldest son of Sidy Ischem is also with them," said he, "and you will soon see them enter."

Accordingly, the Cheik Beirouc soon made his appearance, followed by the brilliant escort who came to deliver us, and who were to take up their abode with him for the night. "I am now going, with my brother," said Beirouc to us, "for the purpose of counting the money sent me by the Emperor Soliman, and to-morrow you shall depart from Ouadnoum." How great was the joy which we felt at these words! So much happiness cannot be described; it is to the feeling reader, deeply affected by our situation, that it belongs to judge of the extent of it.

Our deliverers, independent of the two Moors who had treated for our ransom, and of some others who formed their suite, were

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to the number of five. The alcaid was a friend to the governor of Tarodant, and was called Abdul Kérim. The three soldiers under his orders belonged to the Sultan's guard. But the fifth Moor, who was not more than 20 years of age, was son of the famous chief, the powerful Sidy Ischem, and his name was Abdallah. Sidy Ischem having his residence on the frontiers of the empire, Abdallah had joined the escort at the entrance into the desert; accompanied it as far as Ouadnoun, and was to return with us.

Abdul Kérim, as well as Mohammed, one of the two merchants of Tarodant, informed us that we should depart the next morning by day-break. I profited, therefore, by the rest of the evening in order to make a last excursion round Ouadnoun. I conceived a great desire to bring away with me, in order to preserve it as long as I lived, a design of those places near which I had suffered so much misery. I had at that time some paper, and was still in possession of my pencil: I concealed myself therefore behind a wall, which was partly destroyed, and situated to the west of the city; there, unperceived, I sketched a design, which represents it with great exactitude.*

As soon as I returned, Beirouc, who was in the court, and who appeared in very good humour, expressed a desire to possess a pair of spectacles belonging to M. Mexia. The latter had been able to preserve them, because the Moors, who did not at first suspect their utility, looked upon them for some time as a ridiculous article and of no value. But Beirouc had just discovered the use of them: a workman, whom he employed as a locksmith, having tried on these spectacles out of curiosity, was convinced that they would be of great assistance to him, his eyes being very weak. He therefore eagerly requested the cheik to get them for him, and he promised to do so. Beirouc always supposed me to have an influence over my companions, and he immediately required me to produce these spectacles. Being persuaded that it was in no way convenient for M. Mexia to part with them, and, profiting too soon by the liberty which I thought I already enjoyed, I replied to Beirouc, without even consulting M. Mexia, and in another accent than that of a slave, that he had no right to demand these spectacles, which were more precious to the proprietor than they could possibly be useful to him. Beirouc made no reply; but my refusal irritated him, and until a late hour of the night he manifested the rage which he felt.

* The cross which is perceived in the etching, does not exist in the place itself, but has been put, in order to indicate the spot where those Christians are interred who have perished at Ouadnoun. In this same spot reposes the remains of the unfortunate lieutenant of the Sophia.

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The day now began to dawn, and our conductors desired us to be in readiness for departure. It was the first order which we received with real pleasure; accordingly, notwithstanding our extreme weakness and inconceivable exhaustion, each of us endeavoured to forget his sufferings and hastened to obey. Already Abdul Kérim and his companions had mounted on their horses, which were striking the ground with impatience; already Hamar, who had made known to Beirouc his intention of returning to his family, had taken his leave of him, and was ready to accompany us; we were proceeding ourselves to mount upon the mules which were intended for us, when the cheik became furious on seeing me, and commanded me to remain where I was: "Your companions shall depart," cried he in a rage; "but you, who have always deceived me, shall remain at Ouadnoun."

Judge of my surprise and alarm on hearing these terrible words! Beirouc, whom my refusal the evening before exasperated against me, gave another motive for his anger, and, because in several instances I had endeavoured to shun the effects of his hatred, by flattering him with false promises, he now reproached me, with some appearance of reason, for having constantly made a jest of him.

This unexpected scene caused our conductors to alight. They tried every means in their power to make this madman listen to reason; but he was untractable. They represented to him that the emperor having purchased and paid for me, he had no longer any right to my person; these representations were all in vain. "Before losing my claims upon this Christian," said he, forcibly placing his hand upon my shoulder, "he must acquit himself of a debt which he has contracted towards me. Let him pay me the twenty piastres which he owes me, and then you may take him with you."

I immediately recollected, and the reader perhaps will not have forgotten, that two months previous, with the intention of giving Beirouc a favourable idea of our resources at Mogadore, I had actually promised this sum for a chain, made of hair, which he remitted to me, and which, at my solicitation, he had purchased for only four piastres.

This pretence, which the cheik only thought of in order to revenge himself for the refusal of the preceding day, rendered the circumstance the more embarrassing, as the tardy offer of the spectacles would not have been sufficient to calm him; it was therefore difficult to foresee the issue of this scene. Two hours passed away in the midst of a very warm altercation between the Moors of Ouadnoun, and those of the emperor; during the whole of which we observed the most mournful silence. We were

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all in consternation at the obstacle which presented itself on our departure, when Hamar, moved by our situation, and actuated by the most generous sentiments, went towards the irritated cheik, and immediately put into his hands, in order to discharge my debt, a part of the sum which he had that morning received for his wages, saying, that as he was going the same route, he had sufficient confidence in me to believe that I would not fail to reimburse him at Soueirah, by the hands of our consul.

This affecting proceeding of Hamar, while it increased my affection for him, removed all difficulty on the part of Beirouc. This cheik having nothing more to allege against us, was constrained to allow us permission to depart; but his fury, for which he could no longer assign any plausible motive, was not appeased; he hastily turned his back upon us without bidding us adieu: but this circumstance was what we had least to regret, and therefore we set out immediately. In passing through the square, we perceived the Cheik Ibrahim, who waited for us, in the midst of a group of Moors. Here it was necessary to act a species of comedy, and to express, as it were, our regrets in separating ourselves from these cruel men.

It was ten o'clock when we set out on our journey, and a few minutes afterwards I had lost sight for ever of this odious Ouadnoun.

CHAPTER VIII.

Description of the escort of the sufferers.—Hunting the antelope.—Arrival at Talent.—The travellers are well received by Sidy Ischem.—The author receives letters from the French consul at Tangier.—Departure from Talent.—Arrival at Tarodant.—The sufferers are invited to the pavilion of the Sultan.—Sudden change in their situation.—They are presented to the Governor.—Letter of the Emperor of Morocco.—Portrait of El-Caid El-Djellaly.—Curiosity excited by the sufferers.—The author and one of his companions are conducted into a pavilion, where they see the wives of the governor.—Departure from Tarodant.

Our troop presented the striking contrast between eastern pomp and the most frightful misery. Very awkwardly mounted on mules, with pannels instead of saddles, we cut a most woful figure. Independent of our having no clothes, but a few rags to cover our nakedness, we were still more calculated to inspire pity by our extraordinary leanness, and by the still suffering

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state of M. Mexia. Our conductors, on the contrary, were well clothed, and made a very fine appearance. Each of them wore a haique of a beautiful white, and over this a sort of cloak of very fine blue cloth. Well arranged turbans ornamented their heads, which were also partly covered by the hoods of their cloaks. The son of Sidy Ischem, like most of the independent Moors, had alone his head uncovered, his thick hair sufficing to guarantee him from the ardour of the sun.

Never had I seen such fine horses as those of this brilliant escort. All of them were of a large size, extremely animated, and of a white, or dapple-grey colour. The manner in which they were harnessed corresponded with their fine appearance. Saddles covered with scarlet cloth, large silver stirrups, and some ornaments of the same metal, produced the greatest effect.

Each cavalier, armed with a poniard and sabre, had besides a very fine Moorish gun mounted with silver, which he held horizontally before him and supported on the saddle. We had hardly been an hour on our journey, when the young Abdallah separated himself from the troop, and spurred his horse at full gallop into the briers on our left. With the exception of Abdul Kérim, the other horsemen soon followed his example. We then perceived that the object of their pursuit was an antelope, which was flying before them with extreme rapidity. The speed of the horses almost equalled the swiftness of this timid animal. Often they were on the point of reaching him; but the antelope found a shelter and security in a place where it was impracticable for them to enter. It thus had the happiness of escaping from the surprising agility, and ordinary dexterity of the hunters.

These cavaliers, covered with perspiration and their horses with foam, again joined us on the road, without this interesting diversion having slackened our pace for a moment. At seven o'clock we arrived near the village of Tasserit; the principal house of which was at a little distance from the village, bordering on the spot where we halted. Our guides requested admittance, but the inmates would not consent, and we were obliged to form a bivouac at the foot of a large tree, which stood alone on a little hill at a short distance from the house.

Before day-break we were again on our journey. Abdallah being desirous of pushing forward to the place where his father resided, had induced the Moors to set out so early. We travelled during two hours before sun-rise, and in an obscurity which prevented us for a long time from seeing where we were going. At eight o'clock we came to an extremely steep hill, and in the difficult and winding path which we followed, we perceived a wounded serpent which barred our way. Some negroes,

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who had just passed us, had attacked it, and thought it was killed. However, this serpent was still moving when we got near it, and the horses, being frightened, refused to advance; but we soon killed it, and then continued our journey.

At four o'clock we reached the village of Tillime, the situation of which is very picturesque. About fifty houses are built at the summit of a high mountain, and about the same number occupy the foot of it. A number of palm and fig-trees, watered by neighbouring springs, embellish the masses of rocks in a most agreeable manner. Soon after quitting this village, Abdallah discovered at a distance the house of his father. He put spurs to his horse and set off at full gallop; at the moment of his leaving us a hare sprung past him, which he pursued and killed, by a shot from his musket.

It was night when we arrived at Talent, the abode of Sidy Ischem. Darkness hardly permitted us to distinguish objects; nevertheless, we were enabled to form an idea of the house of this chief. It was only half built, and had the appearance of a kind of castle, situated on a hill, which commanded the plain. We entered into a vast court, and the place was pointed out to us where we were to pass the night. Our escort took up their quarters by the side of us, and a Moor, servant to Sidy Ischem, immediately brought tea and other refreshments to Abdul Kérim and his companions.

They at first appeared to pay little attention to us, but after some time Abdallah, followed by six or seven young men who were his brothers, came to summon us on the part of his father, and invited Hamar, who was already well known to them, to accompany us. Overwhelmed with fatigue, we were lying close to a wall; we arose immediately, and those who could hardly walk, crawled along the best way they could, in order to satisfy the curiosity of this powerful chief. His presence restored our courage. I had not yet seen a Moor with so cheerful a countenance, nor of so fine a figure. He was lying on a carpet in the corner of a court, the one half of which, being covered, formed a room or rather a shed; the other half was exposed. Several Moors lay at a little distance from Sidy Ischem, but maintained a respectful attitude in his presence. One of them, who knew a few words of Spanish, and who appeared to enjoy his favour, was a kind of buffoon. He had the priviledge of making him laugh, and served him continually with tea.

Sidy Ischem received us with great affability. He invited my companions and myself to sit down on the carpet, and the Moor, his favourite, served us with tea. They made us drink a quantity, which would have appeared to me enormous, had not our host drank ten times as much: during the two hours that we remained with him, he never ceased taking it. He spoke with

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astonishing volubility, frequently burst into loud fits of laughter, and emptied his cup as soon as it was filled. This tea, into which balm and some other odoriferous plants were infused, appeared to me excellent. After having drank almost to satiety, Sidy Ischem gave orders to bring us some bread, and went himself, into an adjoining room, and brought us a large pot of honey.

A treatment so unexpected did not fail to establish a great familiarity between so affable a host and ourselves. Questions and answers succeeded each other with rapidity; Sidy Ischem talked a great deal of Beirouc, and we depicted, in glowing colours, the treatment which we had experienced from him; the freedom, no doubt misplaced, with which we expressed our complaints, by no means irritated Sidy Ischem; on the contrary, it excited in him a great deal of mirth.

We were about to take leave of him, in order to partake of that repose which we so much needed, when, perceiving our intention, he made a sign for us to remain. He then rose up, and after some minutes absence, returned with some very fine muskets, of European fabric, which he gave me to examine. One of these guns had been sent him, a short time previous, by the English consul, in order to evince his gratitude for the care which this chief had shewn in the deliverance of the crew of an English vessel. Wishing to know the value of this musket, he had brought it to me; it was of exquisite workmanship, but I gave it an exaggerated value.

Sidy Ischem, delighted at what I had just told him, shewed me also his horses, many of whom were standing within ten paces of the carpet on which we lay. One in particular, whom he appreciated more than all the rest, was remarkable for its extreme leanness; it was absolutely nothing but skin and bone, and appeared of no value. Nevertheless, he considered it otherwise, and assured me that he had frequently refused 2,000 piastres for it. It had been brought up to endure the fatigues of the desert: it could remain two days without eating, and was easily supported by a little flour and camels' milk.

At midnight we quitted Sidy Ischem, to enjoy some repose. He informed us, that we should not depart the next day, because it was the fête of Mahomet. The night had hardly drawn to a close, ere he appeared in the court where we were lying, and beckoned me to come to him. I arose accordingly, when he gave me a sheep, which a negro led by his side, and requested me, as well as my companions, for whose use it was intended, to go and kill it in an adjoining garden. Little inclined to perform this operation, I thanked our host, but expressed a desire rather to have a little meat ready dressed. The refusal of a favour, evi-

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dently on the day of the greatest festival of the Moors, appeared for a moment to shock Sidy Ischem; however, he withdrew with his sheep, and without feeling much offended, gave me to understand, that we should be served according to our wishes. Had we thought we should have displeased him, we would have taken care not to have refused his present; but we already knew how curious the Moors were to see us kill those animals, particularly as to the method we took, which was sure to exasperate them against us.

The place for celebrating the fête was in a village, named Illekh, situated a league to the westward of Talent, and for the most part inhabited by Jews, who carried on a commerce with Sidy Ischem. The great firing which we soon afterwards heard, announced to us that the fête had commenced, but we had no desire to be spectators of it. At this moment a stranger entered the court, mounted on a mule; it was Amenahem! He brought me a letter from M. Casaccia, and several pairs of shoes, of which we felt the greatest want. This letter enclosed two others, addressed to me by the Consul-general of France at Tangier. They were the first which I had received from M. Sourdeau, and were dictated by sentiments of the purest humanity. How I longed to form an acquaintance with a man who thus expressed himself:

"Deign, you and your companions of misfortune, to dispose of me in any way which you may think most convenient for your comfort. The most glorious attribute of our functions is, that which furnishes us with an opportunity of being useful to our countrymen. Courage! my dear sir, courage! I feel that much is required with such men. God will bring you safely out of this calamity; let us hope every thing from his infinite goodness."

The letters of M. Sourdeau made us weep with emotion. They anticipated all the hazards which we might run; they advised us to avoid, as much as possible, the near approach of the Moors, in order to escape from the plague which was then ravaging the empire of Morocco; they persuaded us not to continue our journey by land, when once arrived at Mogadore, as we should run the risk of being murdered. In fine, each phrase expressed the most tender solicitude, and penetrated us with sentiments of gratitude which will never be effaced.

After expressing to Amenahem the pleasure which I felt at his arrival, I communicated to him my astonishment at the kind reception I had met with from Sidy Ischem. "I am not at all surprised at it," replied Amenahem; "however, if you remain with him, you will not always find him in the same humour. He is a powerful prince, esteemed on account of his courage,

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and much respected by the Moors, because he is the keeper of the sanctuary of Illekh of Moussa. But his temper is extremely variable; he passes in a moment from joy to fury, and he has been seen frequently to kill his guests with his own hands, in the midst of those festivals which he enlivens by his gaiety."

"You know," added Amenahem, "that there is continual war between the Sultan and the Moors, who live in the desert. For some time, however, it has been less general, and Sidy Ischem has taken little or no part in it. This interval of peace gave Soliman the hope of being able to induce him to come to Morocco, and accordingly he intimated the satisfaction which he would experience at receiving him; but too cunning to be caught in a snare, Sidy Ischem rejected this proposition. Nevertheless, wishing to give the Sultan an idea of his power and riches, he sent him, about a year ago, a present of 500 slaves, and the like number of camels and horses. At the same time, he wrote to Soliman that he would never go to see him, and that his intention, in sending these presents, was merely to to prove to him that he was his equal.*

The changeableness of the features of Sidy Ischem was even greater than that which so much struck me in Beirouc, and rendered probable what Amenahem told me respecting his excessive inconstancy; and thus I was convinced it was necessary to be upon our guard against irritating such a man, who, being besides in the prime of life, still experienced the effervescence of his passions.†

Sidy Ischem had no sooner returned from the fête, than he called me to know if I could play at draughts. Having replied in the affirmative, he desired a Moor to seek for his draught-

* A Rabbin of Jerusalem, who arrived in the empire of Morocco, and who knew Sidy Ischem well, confirmed to me, at a later period, the details given by Amenahem. He also communicated to me the following very interesting traits in his character. At the epoch in which the ancient governor of Sus, Argenhage, burnt down several establishments of Sidy Ischem, in a war which he waged with the independent Moors, in the name of Soliman, (about eight years ago) Sidy Ischem swore he would not touch a hair of his head, until he had killed, either with his own hands, or by those of his tribe, the governor who had been guilty of such excesses. The hair of Sidy Ischem, I remarked, was hanging over his shoulders, which is against the custom of the Moors, and renders the account of the Rabbin extremely probable.

He also assured me, that he was often in the habit, after having caused holes to be dug in the ground, for the purpose of concealing his piastres and valuable articles, of killing with his own hand the slaves whom he had employed in digging them, lest they might be guilty of any indiscretion.

† Captain Riley, who has only mentioned it by hearsay, represents him by mistake as a man between 50 and 60 years of age. Sidy Ischem is at the very utmost not more than 40.

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board; and, in order to form our party, we sat down upon the ground, outside the house, in the midst of a group of idlers, who did not fail to surround us. The draught-board of this powerful chief was simply a plain board, the squares of which were indicated by lines traced with a knife: a drawer fixed underneath contained the men; these consisted of pebbles for one of the players, and date-stones for the other. The manner in which Sidy Ischem played, being different from ours, completely puzzled me, and he of course was the conqueror; but even had it been possible for me to have had the advantage, I believe, after what Amenahem had told me, I should have been civil enough to cede him the victory. After having played only two games, he left me as unworthy to cope with him, and began playing with his favourite, who seemed as awkward as myself, or rather used the same policy as I should have done had I known his mode of playing.

This day terminated, like that of the preceding, by the favour which was again granted us of taking tea with our host. On quitting him, he announced to us that we should take our departure the following morning.

Each of us would much rather have proceeded in a direct road to Mogadore along with Amenahem, than have gone out of his way, nearly seventy miles, in order to pay our respects to the governor of Tarodant, through whom we were ransomed. Our extremely weak state made us regret that matters could not be otherwise arranged. M. Mexia, above all, appeared incapable of supporting this additional fatigue. He begged to be separated from us, declaring that nothing in the world would make him consent to follow us, as he felt he would perish if he exposed himself to the fatigues of an unnecessary journey.

Accordingly the next morning (the 3d of October) every thing being in readiness for departure, and our escort on horseback, M. Mexia declared that it was impossible for him to accompany us. Abdul Kérim and Mohammed, astonished at this determination, alighted and endeavoured to make him change his resolution; but M. Mexia, lying on the ground, and a prey to the greatest sufferings, resisted all their efforts to take him away. Moved at his condition I expressed great indignation at the inhumanity of our conductors, and tried to interest Sidy Ischem, whom we looked upon as a protector, in our favour. This step succeeded; and it was decided that we should remain another day: but the next morning, M. Mexia being still in the same condition, made a similar resistance. Our escort then became inexorable: they took him by the arms and legs, and in spite of his cries, placed him by force upon his mule, in a state which prognosticated a speedy death.

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It was in the midst of that grief which we felt at this revolting insensibility that we bade adieu to Sidy Ischem, to his son Abdallah, and his other children, from whom we had received so much kindness during our stay at Talent. We afterwards proceeded on our journey, Hamar being mounted behind M. Mexia, in order to support him.

In about a quarter of an hour we arrived at Illekh, where the fête had been given the preceding day; Amenahem, who frequently resided there on business, had preceded us. He offered us some provisions as we passed; but Abdul Kérim would not permit us to take them, and conducted us, without stopping, as far as the banks of a river named *Ras El-Ouadi*. Having crossed it, and being only within three miles of Tamaleh, where we intended passing the night, we continued our route, and arrived about five in the evening. We all felt fatigued; but M. Mexia was not more so than us, and, to my astonishment, he had greatly recovered during the journey.

Tamaleh is the first place where a cheik resides under the orders of the Emperor; it is, consequently, on the line of frontiers between the empire of Morocco and the territory of the independent Moors. Sidy Ischem and this cheik are nearly always in hostility with each other, even when war is not declared. Tamaleh encloses about thirty houses, of considerable size, many of whom have battlements and towers resembling castles. The principal of these houses is that of the cheik, and there our escort alighted. He was absent at the time of our arrival, but he was not long in making his appearance, with a troop of Moors, on their return from an expedition in the environs. This man, who was very tall and meager, and mounted on a horse as lean as himself, made his entry, with a vain-glorious air, into the court where we were lying. He was preceded by a troop of camels, sheep, and goats which he had just taken from the enemy. The Moors who accompanied the cheik had nearly all most atrocious figures, and they were still inflamed by the carnage which they had been making in the neighbouring mountains, where they had killed fifteen independent Moors, after having forced them to surrender prisoners. These men, whom the success of their expedition inspired with still greater fury, surrounded and insulted us in every way. Happily the cheik had compassion on our situation, which was really alarming, and delivered us out of their cruel hands; he then invited us to enter into his house, where an abundant repast was prepared for us.

On the 4th of October, by day-break, we left Tamaleh. Our host, mounted on horseback, accompanied us for an hour as far as the borders of a wood: here the cheik took his leave.

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Abdul Kérim and his companions then loaded their muskets, the former marching a-head, and looking in all directions for fear of a surprise. After an hour's march, we met in the wood a caravan of two or three hundred camels, conducted by about thirty men. It was noon ere we got out of the wood, and fortunately without meeting with any bad rencounter. We had now travelled nearly twenty miles, and we reckoned upon having as many more ere we arrived at Tarodant. We wished to delay our arrival until the next day, but our conductors paid little attention to our extreme weakness, and accordingly proceeded at a brisk rate.

The road now presented an enchanting aspect; the richest vegetation covered the plains; and towards four o'clock, our guides shewed us the turrets of Tarodant, which arose in great numbers above the trees surrounding the city. We were still within five miles from it, and already we discovered in the fields that cultivation which indicates the neighbourhood of a great city. From all parts we perceived fields of Turkey-corn, water-melons, date-trees, olives, and vines loaded with enormous grapes. We passed, as it were, through gardens, as the narrow road which we followed was bordered with them on each side. The most beautiful rivulets watered these gardens; distributed with art into an infinity of canals, they flowed meandering in the midst of cultivated lands.

It was nearly six o'clock when we arrived under the walls of the city. These walls, composed of gravel and clay cemented together, are of an extraordinary thickness, and appeared to be about 25 feet in height. Their numerous battlements produced the effect of cannon port-holes, and the circumference which they form is so considerable, that at first sight we thought Tarodant contained at least 80,000 inhabitants.*

Before we entered the city, some Moors, who were mounted behind us, alighted from our mules; Hamar also, who was on mine, followed their example. They apparently wished to leave us all the honours of that reception which was preparing for us. Night was approaching, but the darkness was not so great as to prevent us from going unobserved through the city. As soon as we were perceived, the cry of *N'sara*, uttered with fury, was heard on our passage. The inhabitants, extended along the walls of their houses, rose at our approach; a great number followed us loading us with insults, and some even threw stones at us. The escort, who granted us their protection with regret, laughed at the reception which was given us, and seemed to take a pleasure in showing us to the people. However, when the insults became too serious, Abdul Kérim, who preceded us,

* At present it contains only a population of from 20 to 25,000 souls.

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returned and induced the Moors to desist. It was with this cortège that we arrived at the palace of the governor.* They made us alight before the gate; but our feebleness was so great, that our legs could not support us, and we fell to the ground, where we remained some time, exposed to the insults of an enraged populace. Fortunately, the guards and some negroes soon issued from the palace, and made them retire. At the same time, a Moor, who appeared to enjoy a certain consideration, and whom I afterwards learned was the governor's secretary, came towards us, beckoned us to follow him, and introduced us into a garden.

Never, perhaps, did any one experience so sudden a transition from a mournful condition to a state so truly captivating! The most perfect silence reigned around us; the noise of some cascades, and the gentle rustling of trees, feebly agitated by a slight wind, alone troubled the tranquillity of a lovely night. We found ourselves, as it were, transported into a garden of vast extent. Darkness still prevented us from judging of its beauty; but the perfume of orange-trees, with which the air was embalmed, promised us a delicious residence.

A magnificent avenue, adorned with trees on both sides, conducted into a pavilion situated at the extremity of the garden. The governor's secretary, preceded by slaves carrying torches, ushered us into this place, informing us at the same time that El-Caid El-Djellaly consented that it should serve as an asylum for us during the stay that we were to make at Tarodant. He assured us that this pavilion was that occupied by the Sultan, when he came to visit the capital of the kingdom of Sus. He also gave us to understand that no Christian before us had ever penetrated into it, and that we owed this signal favour to the benevolent disposition of the governor in our behalf. "You may," continued he, "ask whatever is necessary for you: every thing will be immediately granted you; and these Moors who know your language, (pointing to two ill-looking men who were eyeing us attentively) are charged to watch over your comforts." The governor's secretary afterwards took leave of us, intimating that the next day El-Caid El-Djellaly himself would visit us.

The Moors to whose care we were recommended, were two renegadoes; the one a Spaniard, the other an Italian. Their appearance and manners sufficiently announced, (without their confessing them) the reasons which they had for abandoning their country and their religion; and each of them, in all probability, had rendered himself notorious for more than one

* The house of the governor, to which I give the name of palace, was, in our eyes, only an ordinary building.

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crime. Our situation banished all scruple, and we shook hands with them as if we had been brothers. In our eyes they appeared only as misguided countrymen; for in misfortune and at remote places, an Italian, a Spaniard, an Englishman, or a Frenchman, are of the same country; the shades of difference are confounded, and it is sufficient to belong to a civilized country, to partake of the same national feeling and sometimes the same sentiments.

The Spanish renegado, the one who expressed the greatest pleasure on seeing us, was called Absalem. During the last twelve years, he had been in the service of the governors of Sus. His merit as a cannonier and director of an arsenal was duly appreciated: it was he who, in the war with Sidy Ischem eight years before, had directed the fire which burned down several houses of that independent chief. The ability of Absalem had established his reputation at Tarodant, and the present governor on that account treated him with great kindness.

After partaking of an abundant repast, consisting of all sorts of fruit, we prepared for rest. Mats were immediately brought us, and placed in that part of the pavilion generally allotted for the divan of the Sultan. A comfortable sleep soon closed our eyes: every thing was tranquil around us, and that confidence which we experienced for the first time internally, could not be diminished by those anxieties which had agitated so many mournful nights. Could I ever have imagined that I should pass the most agreeable night, perhaps, of my life, in the very spot where had sometimes reposed, for the happiness of a whole nation, the cruel despotism of the Emperors of Morocco?

As soon as the dawn began to appear I arose, in order to examine the surrounding places. Proceeding along the terrace adjoining the pavilion, I perceived the vast extent of the garden, of which I had only formed an imperfect idea the evening before. That first impression which we feel, but are unable to describe, when the return of day discovers to the eyes an agreeable and still unknown site, the freshness of morning, the perfume exhaled by a thousand orange-trees in full blossom, the aspect of numerous cascades, so many enjoyments to which we were no longer accustomed, left a delicious recollection on my mind.

The height of the walls surrounding the garden at first struck me; they are of the same height as those of the city, and have battlements in the same manner. The pavilion is situated to the north, opposite to the governor's palace. An entire circle of walls encloses this palace and gardens, separates them from the city, and serves them for a rampart. In one of the towers, built at equal distances on the wall, we perceived a piece of iron cannon. It appeared intended to keep the enemy at a distance, in time of war, should he attempt to approach the city on the side of the pavilion.

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This pavilion is composed of five apartments, the largest of which is situated in the middle, and is remarkable for its commodious distribution, and the elegant manner in which it is decorated. It has three entrances: the principal, in front of the alley of orange-trees, is preceded by a terrace and a gallery, which has three apertures arched from above. The two others are, one on the right, the other on the left of the building. Nothing can be more rich than the ornaments of the principal apartment, although it was then stripped of the furniture which embellish it during the residence of the sultan. The ceiling, which was of wood, painted with various colours, and imitating a tent, particularly attracted my attention on account of its beautiful workmanship; as well as the inlaid floor, which consisted of a species of mosaic, composed of an infinity of small squares of china of various colours.

As it was yet early, I accepted the offer which Absalem made of shewing me the environs of the palace, and the pieces of ordnance which he had under his direction. These pieces were placed before the principal gate of the palace. They consisted of two English cannons, of small calibre, and two Spanish howitzers, in bad condition. I had just examined them attentively, when raising my head I perceived a group of Moors about twenty paces from us. The most remarkable held a chaplet in one hand, and with the other was leading an enormous sheep. Absalem immediately announced that this was the governor. I then went towards him, and thanked him, in the name of my companions and my own, for the kindness which had been shewn to us. El-Caid El-Djellaly replied, that in receiving us with some distinction, he only executed the orders of the Sultan, and that we had to thank the Emperor Soliman for having held out a friendly arm to us in our misfortune. At the same time he shewed me the sheep which he had just chosen, saying it was intended for me, and that Absalem should kill and prepare it for us, till such time as he could offer us the use of his own table. The governor then beckoned me to follow him, and I returned with him towards my companions, whom he welcomed with the same kindness.

El-Caid El-Djellaly, seated on the terrace, against the wall of the pavilion, and turning his chaplet between his fingers, was pleased to address an infinity of questions to us. We were standing before him, and Absalem explained what we could not understand. The governor was anxious to know the name of each of our party, and to learn the treatment which we had experienced from the independent Moors. This again furnished me with an opportunity of expressing to him all our gratitude. I assured him it would be eternal, and that on my return to France, I should communicate to our Government the interest

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which he had taken in our fate. He appeared delighted at a promise of this kind, and shewed us the letter which had been transmitted to him by the emperor, authorizing our deliverance. This letter was stamped with the imperial seal, and he set a very high value upon it. The following is a correct translation :—

"Praise be to the one God; may his blessing be upon our lord Mohammed, on his family, and his companions, for ever, amen. Our servant El-Caid El-Djellaly, El-Rahmany, may salvation be upon thee, as well as divine mercy. We command thee to search for the French Christians mentioned in the enclosed letter; to ransom them at the most moderate rate, and to send them towards Tsoghr (the city) Soueirah, in order that they may be remitted into the hands of the Caid of this city, who will restore them to their Vice-Consul, if it please God. May God assist thee: Amen. Signed,

"SULEIMAN, SON OF MOHAMMED, SON OF ABDALLAH.

"The 14th day of the month of Chawal, the blessed year 1234." (Corresponding with the year 1819.)

The governor, apparently moved by the thanks which we addressed to him, informed us that we should remain several days at Tarodant, in order that we might recover from our fatigue: he also gave orders to send for some Jews, whom, as soon as they arrived, he charged to supply us with brandy *(mahia)* which the Moors, who do not drink it, could not procure. He then left us, promising that he should visit us every day while we remained in the pavilion.

El-Caid El-Djellaly is a man about fifty years of age. His figure, without being noble, is agreeable, from his mild expressive countenance, which is rendered still more gracious by a habitual smile. In general, his manners are distinguished, and every thing in him indicates one of the principal personages of the court of Morocco, which court, ever since he came to Tarodant, he greatly regrets having left.

As soon as he was gone, I profited by a little leisure to endeavour to sketch a view of the city. A small stair-case, in the interior of the pavilion, led to a terrace above the roof, and from which we discovered the whole of Tarodant. From this place I perceived, not only all the city, but to my great surprise nearly all the inhabitants whom curiosity had collected round the walls of the pavilion. The moment I was observed, I became the object of the attention and clamours of the people. Nevertheless, I began my sketch; but the cries, accompanied by furious gestures, redoubled with such violence, that, notwithstanding the security of my position, I did not feel courage enough to persevere in my design. I descended therefore into the garden,

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and confined myself, having only Absalem and Hamar for spectators, to sketch a front view of the pavilion, from the middle of the orangery.

The desire to see us was so great, that it was even communicated to the wives of the governor, and some others belonging to the officers of his house. The secretary, in consequence, came to inform us how impatient they were to see Christians for the first time. As this step might have been attended with disagreeable consequences, we at first refused; not wishing to be shewn as a spectacle, particularly as our absolute destitution could only excite an insulting gaiety. Our refusal displeased the secretary, who was anxious we should give our opinion of his mistress, whom he said was very handsome. The next morning he renewed his entreaty, and in order to overcome our scruples, he declared he would deprive us of food throughout the day, if some of us did not comply with his request. No motive could hold out against a menace of that nature, and accordingly M. Scheult and myself prepared to follow the secretary.

At the extremity of the garden, opposite to the pavilion, there was a door of communication with the governor's house. By this door we entered, and we were soon ushered into an apartment, where we perceived a number of women, the greater part extremely handsome. They might be about twelve in number; they were very slightly dressed, and had their bosoms completely uncovered. They all stood at the further extremity of the room, and, in order to have a proper view of us, they placed their heads over each other's shoulders, thus forming a charming group. The secretary eagerly pointed out to us the object of his choice; she was very agreeable, but did not equal in beauty a concubine of the governor's, whose charms were distinguished above all the rest: Her name was Mina. I addressed her as follows: *Mina inti mesiana aharifah*, (Mina, you are very handsome.) The surprise which she felt, on hearing her name pronounced by a Christian, was extreme. She remained an instant immoveable; but soon recovering from her astonishment, she burst into a loud laugh, in which she was joined by the rest of her companions. But the step which these inquisitive beauties had taken was attended with uneasiness; they surveyed us with eagerness, but were alarmed at the least noise. We had only remained about four minutes, when a great noise was heard at a little distance from us; Mina and her companions were seized with terror, and fled with a precipitation which sufficiently indicated that their indiscreet visit was not without danger.

Towards the middle of the day the governor came to see us for the second time. His manners were still agreeable, but did not appear to us to be so free. He had, however, learned

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nothing which could have induced him to change his disposition towards us, and I therefore solely attributed it to the natural inconstancy of the Moors. This circumstance made us hasten our departure, and in consequence we informed the governor of our wish to take leave of him the following morning. We knew, by experience, that no reliance could be placed in demonstrations commanded by duty, but inwardly contradicted by the sentiments which the Moors naturally bear towards us. The best thing we could do, therefore, was to get out of their hands as soon as possible; for in order to enjoy that liberty which was yet only in prospective, it was necessary to fly from that ungrateful land which rejects it, and where there reigns in its stead the most dreadful tyranny, to an extent unknown in any other country.

El-Caid El-Djellaly consented to our prompt departure; but he intimated to us that it should not take place until two days, as it was necessary to make some preparatives. At the same time he gave orders to Abdul Kérim to conduct us as far as Mogadore, and a young Moor, of the name of Sidy El-Araby, nephew to the governor, having expressed a desire to accompany us, was also appointed. The hope, or rather the certainty, of obtaining some presents from the French consul, made every one wish to be of the party; but the governor took care to choose only those of his friends on whom he wished to bestow a favour.

CHAPTER IX.

Departure from Tarodant.—Agadeer.—Description of that Town.—Chain of Atlas.—Joy of the sufferers at the sight of European vessels.—They enter into Mogadore.—They are welcomed by M. Casaccia and other Europeans.—Visit to the bashaw.—He declares to the sufferers that they are free.—Earnest desire of the Author to return to France.—Description of Mogadore.—Decline of that city.—Vexations to which the Christian merchants are exposed.—The Author and three of his companions embark for Tangier.—Arrival.—M. Sourdeau and other Europeans precede them, and overwhelm them with kindness.—Melancholy situation of the European agents at Tangier.—View of Tangier.—Departure.—Arrival at Marseilles.

El-Caid El-Djellaly kept his word, and on the 8th of October every thing was arranged for departure. At 11 o'clock a

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Moor came to inform us that our mules were ready. We repaired immediately to the gate of the palace, where the governor awaited us, surrounded by about 50 Moors who composed his suite. After again expressing our thanks, we bade him adieu, and took the road for Agadeer; some Moors, subordinate to the rest, also escorted us, and Hamar, our faithful companion, mounted behind me.

The governor had ordered that our escort should pass through the garden of the Emperor, instead of proceeding through the city, in order to avoid the insults which we experienced on our arrival. This decision gave us great pleasure, and we accordingly left Tarodant unperceived by the populace.

The day after our departure, towards three in the afternoon, we arrived within sight of Agadeer. This town, at a certain distance, presented only the appearance of a castle, situated on the last mountain of the chain which commands the ocean at an elevation of nearly 1500 feet. It took us three-quarters of an hour to reach the summit of the steep mountain, on which Agadeer is built. Some soldiers, who were placed at the gate, disarmed our conductors; but the latter having been afterwards recognised as friends, their arms were restored to them before entering. We were conducted into the presence of the governor, who received us very coldly; he would only allow our escort to remain in his house, and sent us off to the district inhabited by the Jews.

The walls which surround Agadeer, being decayed by time, are now more remarkable for their numerous crevices than for their battlements; and are hardly sufficient to support a few pieces of cannon. With the exception of a dozen houses, still standing, the town presents nothing but a heap of ruins, and one cannot persuade himself, on seeing it, that it has formerly been the principal commercial depôt of Barbary. Its population is also very much reduced: exclusive of the Jewish families, it amounts to little more than 300 persons; and as all the men are armed, the town resembles the garrison of a fortress, which derives no importance but from its situation.

On the 11th of October, at seven in the morning, we took leave of the governor and continued our journey. We experienced more difficulty in descending the mountain of Agadeer, than we had encountered in ascending it. The badness of the road forced us for a moment to alight. The clouds which were passing at our feet, and enveloping the flanks of the mountain under us, prevented us from seeing the foot of it. It was also impossible to distinguish the sea, on account of a thick fog; and the noise of the waves, bursting with violence on the coast, alone indicated its position.

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In this manner we marched for upwards of an hour, without well knowing where we were; but afterwards the clouds dispersed, and we soon discovered the vast extent of the ocean. We also perceived very high mountains, which rose, on our right, almost perpendicularly above our heads. To avoid the obstacles which presented themselves when we wished to cross over them, our guides took advantage of the time when the tide was low, and proceeded along the shore. This mode of travelling, sometimes in the water, sometimes on dry ground, was very troublesome; several rocks projecting along the coast, obliged us at times, to enter further into the sea, and it frequently happened that our mules being alarmed, started back instead of advancing, and became so stubborn, that all our efforts could not conquer them; thus leaving us in embarrassing and sometimes dangerous situations.

The tide having reached its greatest height, we could no longer continue the same road; in consequence, Abdul Kérim led us into a narrow passage between two lofty mountains. A road, which appeared almost inaccessible even on foot, conducted to the summit. Its colossal appearance rendered it more imposing than any we had ever seen. During two hours we ascended by this steep road, in the midst of precipices that surrounded us on all parts, and into which we should inevitably have fallen had our mules made a single false step. It was, therefore, with infinite trouble that we succeeded in reaching the highest point of the mountain. Fortunately Abdul Kérim now made a halt, and left us the liberty of taking some refreshment, without which I could not have proceeded further. Notwithstanding the uneasiness which I felt from extreme lassitude, a short repose enabled me to indulge in those reflections which the surrounding scenery naturally inspired. By the force of events which I could not foresee, I was, as it were, transported on the lofty summit of Atlas, so renowned in antiquity. It was on one of the highest summits of these celebrated mountains that we partook of our humble repast.

After an hour of repose, we descended the mountain with less difficulty. The houses which we began to perceive, differed from all those which we had seen; they were nearly all lonely, and resembled castles encompassed with quadrangular walls, in the middle of which rose several towers: these castles were so multiplied that we could not travel during five minutes without passing some of them. They are generally situated on the summits of hills, and produce an extraordinary effect.

We were obliged to proceed till such period as our guides should feel disposed to halt. We, therefore, continued our route long after sunset, in the midst of the profoundest obscurity,

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and a silence that was only from time to time disturbed by the barking of dogs, which was heard at every instant, as we passed along. At 11 o'clock at night we alighted at the door of a large house, the master of which, awakened by the cries of our conductors, soon appeared and gave us admittance. A fire was promptly lit, and refreshments instantly provided; but on this occasion I had more need of repose than nourishment, and a few hours sleep, which they granted us, could not recover me from a fatigue, now become so excessive, that every time I endeavoured to rise, I fell backwards to the ground.

Nevertheless, by day-break, we were again on our journey: a prey to the severest sufferings, and to an extreme weakness, it was impossible for me to distinguish surrounding objects; thus I have but a very confused idea of the events of this day, in which I experienced all the agonies of despair. At the end of a journey of 11 hours I arrived, however, like the rest, in the court of a house where we were to pass the night; I went to rest without being able to take the least nourishment, and became even indifferent to the rigorous cold which chilled all my members. After having escaped a thousand dangers, after having supported with resignation the chains of slavery, must I perish (said I to myself) at the moment in which they are about to be broken! This cruel idea partly occupied my mind, during a night which I passed entirely abandoned to the bitterest reflections.

The dawn of that day which was at last to terminate so much suffering began to appear, but brought no relief to my condition. We were only within 20 miles of Mogadore, and yet I despaired arriving: during this short distance, having no more strength left to support myself, I fell several times from my mule, and the last time I remained for some minutes insensible on the sand. Abdul Kérim and Sidy El-Araby, who perceived my accident, raised me up; but, little affected by so dreadful a situation, they replaced me roughly on my mule, which I could no longer guide.

We continued our journey until noon, when my companions, and the other Moors, began to cry aloud "*Soueirah! Soueirah!*" (Mogadore). This cry reanimated my drooping spirits; I redoubled my speed, in order to join my companions who had got before me, and soon partook of their joy on discovering Mogadore, from which we were distant only about a mile. This city was agreeably delineated on the banks of the sea, beyond a small desert of sand, through which we had to pass, and which alone separated us still from its walls. It is to the reader, who has identified himself with our situation, that it belongs to judge of the emotion which I now felt on discovering, in the bay of Mogadore, a number of European vessels! We could no longer

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doubt but that we should soon see our native country. The excellent Hamar shared our joy, and expressed his satisfaction at the idea of embarking in one of the vessels which he saw at a distance.

We stopped about half an hour near the palace of the Sultan, which stands alone about a mile to the east of the city, and which consists of four pavilions, enclosed by very high walls. At two o'clock we entered Mogadore; the inhabitants, being accustomed to see Europeans, looked upon us with indifference. Abdul Kérim, who had orders to conduct us to the Bashaw, made us alight at the gate of his house. Fatigued at the sight of Moors, my eyes were impatiently directed to discover some Christians. I was not long in being gratified, for hardly had we set foot on the ground, ere we saw a person running towards us, wearing the European costume. In an instant, without making any inquiry, without asking either his name or quality, we extended our hands towards him; well persuaded that the first European who presented himself to our view, must feel for our misfortunes. We mutually congratulated each other without being at first able to pronounce a single word; but the emotion of this Christian, more than his words, indicated to us that he could be no other than M. Casaccia.

It was so in reality: he had learned our happy arrival, and hastened to welcome us. He was soon followed by other Christians, who resided in Mogadore, viz. Mr. Wiltshire, the English vice-consul, to whom I had written from Ouadnoun; Mr. Fox Croft, formerly a merchant, and two other Englishmen. Mr. Wiltshire welcomed us as countrymen, and his reception proved to me that humanity is the distinguishing virtue of his generous soul.*

As it was to the Bashaw, or Governor of Mogadore, to whom it alone belonged to deliver us up into the hands of our agent, we repaired to his house, accompanied by M. Casaccia, who served us as an interpreter, and thanked him in his own name, and in ours, for the protection which the Emperor, his master, had granted us. The Bashaw was unwell, lying on a carpet, in the most obscure corner of the room; he spoke in a very piteous tone, and asked us but few questions; he merely boasted to us, as had been constantly done by the other Moors, of the generosity of Muley-Soliman, and declared to us that, from the orders which he had received, we were from henceforth free to embark, whenever it should seem convenient for us, in order that we might return to our native country. Satisfied at the happy issue of this audience, we took leave of him immediately, and M.

* It is to the benevolent steps of Mr. Wiltshire, that Captain Riley and part of his crew were indebted for their deliverance.

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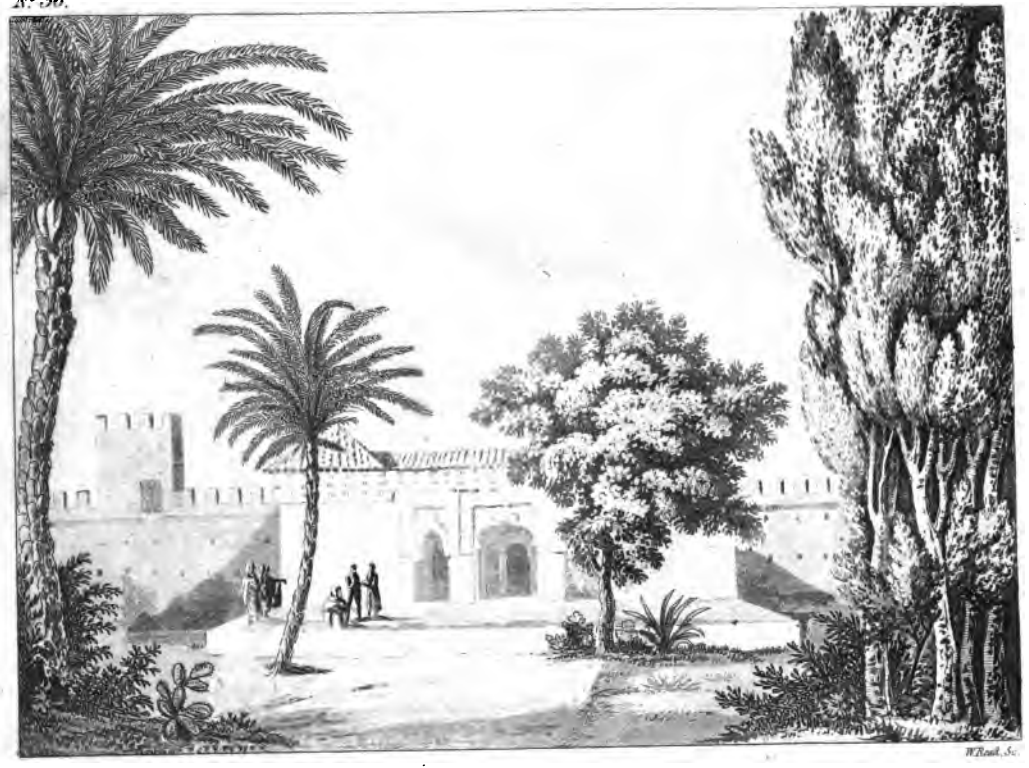

Pavilion of the Emperor of Morocco.

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Casaccia, who lived at a little distance, conducted us to his own house.

The first care of M. Casaccia was to supply us with those articles of clothing of which we were so much in need. We had had the happiness to escape being entirely stripped; but it may easily be conceived that having had nothing to change for nearly five months, it would have been no great loss had we been stripped of the miserable rags which partly covered us. I need not say, therefore, what pleasure each of us experienced, when he was enabled to have a change of linen, and to lie down in a bed, after having slept for one hundred and thirty-five nights on the bare ground, and generally in the midst of sand!

M. Casaccia hastened to lend us some of his clothes, and ordered every thing necessary to be got ready for us. We had the singular good fortune of again finding, at the houses of the Jewish merchants established at Mogadore, the very same clothes which had formerly belonged to us, and which, after passing from hand to hand, had been transported from the place of our shipwreck as far as this city.

The next day after our arrival, Abdul Kérim and Sidy El-Araby paid a visit to M. Casaccia, in order to obtain presents. They received for themselves and the governor of Tarodant, a certain quantity of tea and sugar, and several pieces of linen and cloth. They coveted every piece of furniture in the house, and were particularly desirous for a mirror which they perceived; indeed, had they been permitted, they would have cleared the house, for every article they envied. They at length departed, and of all the Moors who accompanied us, Hamar alone remained.

The first week of our residence in Mogadore sufficed, in some measure, to recover us from the fatigue of several months. I had now no longer any wish but to return to France; a letter from my brother had preceded my arrival at Mogadore, and in which he expressed the most lively interest and anxiety for my fate. I was, therefore, extremely anxious to depart, and resolved to take the first opportunity which presented itself for that purpose.

But we were obliged to wait for some time, as there were only three vessels in the bay: a Swedish brig bound for Genoa, and two small Genoese schooners, under English colours; the one bound for Mahon, and the other for Leghorn, and both intending to touch at Tangier. These three vessels were waiting for their cargo, and the one which was to sail the soonest, was not expected to leave for 15 days. We were therefore obliged to prolong a stay, which greatly thwarted our intentions; and the opportunity which was thus afforded us of examining the city,

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which is said to be the finest of the empire, did not diminish the *ennui* which this delay caused us.

Mogadore presents an imposing appearance when we arrive from the side of the desert which separates it from cultivated lands. The turrets, rising to a great height above the enclosure of walls, fortified by a numerous artillery, fail not, at a certain distance, to produce an agreeable effect. But the interior of the city, notwithstanding the regularity of its streets and the elegant construction of several houses, does not correspond with this first appearance. Nevertheless, Mogadore merits the attention of the traveller, who is an admirer of picturesque sites, and must gratify him who only passes through it rapidly, without fixing his residence in the city.

At present, Mogadore is the dullest place imaginable for an European, as there is hardly any thing remaining of that activity which formerly characterised its trade with Lisbon and Marseilles. I was astonished at the determination of several merchants to remain, upon business of little importance, in the midst of a population from whom they have every thing to fear, should they imitate the neighbouring cantons, by rebelling against the lawful authorities. It is true that these Europeans have felt the danger, or at least the gloominess, of their situation. M. Casaccia, who has lived at Mogadore a great number of years, was extremely desirous of returning to Genoa, his native place. Mr. Wiltshire, in like manner, proposed to seize the first opportunity which presented itself, in order to return to England. Should these two individuals quit Mogadore, there will remain no other Christian in this once flourishing city, with the exception of the two other Englishmen, than Mr. Fox Croft, an English merchant, who was, at the same time, the agent of Holland and of Spain. The latter, to whom I feel a pleasure in here expressing my gratitude for the kindness he shewed me, is only detained by indispensable business, in a country where, without respecting his character, a tyrannical order of Muley Soliman had recently overwhelmed him with disgust and outrages. The treatment of which he was the object is worthy of being related, as it will alone suffice to give a just idea of the situation of Christians in the empire, and show to what extent the despotism of the sovereign can be carried.

The duty on all merchandise imported into the empire of Morocco is ten per cent. and this duty, which goes to the emperor, being generally paid by a part of the goods, is sometimes sent to his residence. Mr. Fox Croft had received, on consignment, a quantity of linen of a very inferior quality, but at an extremely low price. Muley Soliman having had occasion to examine himself a piece of this linen, was so dreadfully enraged, that he

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immediately sent an order to the governor of Mogadore, to arrest, put in irons, and conduct to Morocco, the merchant, whether Moor, Jew, or Christian, who had permitted such merchandise to be introduced into his dominions.

When this order reached Mogadore, it was immediately put in execution. No regard was paid either to the warm remonstrances of Mr. Fox Croft, to his age, or to his infirmities. The functions with which he was invested were equally disregarded. An officer and several soldiers of the governor presented themselves at his residence, put chains on his feet, placed him on a mule, in a position which his corpulency rendered very inconvenient, and, without hearing his expostulations, conducted him before the irritated despot, who was to decide upon his fate.

The Sultan, whose rage was a little calmed when Mr. Croft was brought to him, confined himself, after treating him with the greatest contempt, to desiring him to quit his kingdom at the shortest notice, and decided that he should be conducted by land as far as Tangier, and there delivered over to the English consul-general, for the purpose of being sent off to England. This new order was executed with the same celerity as the first: Mr. Croft was obliged to pay a most exorbitant price for the escort which was given him, and to travel, amidst the greatest dangers, through a country which was, at that time, in a state of rebellion. When he arrived at Tangier, the English consul interfered in his favour; but all that he could obtain was a delay of six months; during which time Mr. Croft had to return again to Mogadore, in order to arrange his affairs, and then to quit the states of Morocco, should the Imperial decision not be revoked.

Traits of this nature, which were daily repeated to me, increased the desire which I entertained to remove from so wretched a country. I reserved to myself, on my return to France, the pleasure of making known to Hamar, who himself felt the weight of the tyranny of his sovereign, the happiness of living in a country which I had left, on my departure, under the reign of personal liberty. But at the very moment that I flattered myself he would embark with me at Mogadore, M. Casaccia communicated to me, that the will of Soliman was opposed to the idea of a Moor embarking at this port. In consequence, I engaged Hamar, after repaying him for the sums he had advanced, and thanking him for his generous conduct towards me, to repair to Tangier by land, at which place I should soon join him.

This separation, to which he consented, was the more painful, as the journey by land had become dangerous, on account of the rebellious state of the country. M. Sourdeau, who had expressly desired us not to undertake it, had just written to us that within

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the last fifteen days, three couriers, carrying dispatches from the European consuls, had been found murdered on the road, and their dispatches lying by the side of them.

About eight days after the departure of Hamar, one of the vessels was ready to sail, and this circumstance became the cause of a new separation. A schooner of only 30 tons, and intended merely for the coasting-trade in the Mediterranean, promised little security on an unprotected coast, and in the commencement of the bad season. The size of the schooner, besides, would not admit of any accommodation, and a hole, which was called the captain's room, was the only shelter for passengers. M. Mexia reasonably thought, that by waiting for the departure of the Swedish brig, he would undergo less fatigue on the voyage. The same motives would, in any other situation, have also determined me; but I burned with the desire of returning home, and the opportunity presented by the schooner *Fortune*, which intended touching at Tangier, was the more convenient, as it would procure me the satisfaction of visiting M. Sourdeau, and thanking him personally for the powerful assistance which he had rendered to us.

No other obstacle opposing itself to our departure, on the 10th of November, at seven in the evening, the long-boat of the schooner, nearly as large as the vessel itself, was sent to convey us on-board. M. Mexia conducted us, accompanied by Messrs. Casaccia, Wiltshire, and Croft, as far as the place of embarkation. It was not without regret that we separated from those persons to whom we were indebted for our first source of consolation; but, on leaving upon the shore one of our companions of misfortune, we were affected even to tears. Having stept on-board, we remained in the vessel for the night, in order to take our departure the next morning.

On the 11th of November, by day-break, we set sail from Mogadore, with a favourable wind. At noon, the breeze having abated a little, we found that we had proceeded about eight leagues; while we were only three from the coast: a calm afterwards succeeded; the weather became heavy, and the atmosphere was overcast with clouds. It might be about two o'clock, when we perceived, at a great distance, the sea becoming very agitated, and the wind, which now sprung up, increased in violence. The sailors had hardly time to lower a part of the sails, when we were already ploughing the waves with an astonishing rapidity. The schooner was sailing at the rate of eleven knots an hour, and a little before night the sky, which had been very dark throughout the day, now became entirely black, and the wind redoubled its violence. We could no longer doubt but that we had a storm to encounter. The continuance of bad weather made the

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sea so rough, that the next day the immense billows which were breaking against the vessel seemed to threaten it with certain destruction. Fortunately, the wind drove us in the right direction, and we passed along the coast with the rapidity of lightning; we were so near, that we could easily distinguish the numerous houses of the Sanctons, or Turkish Friars, which are situated along the coast.

The wind, without abating its fury, now changed from south to west. The schooner suddenly slackened its course, hardly making three knots an hour. The danger then became extreme, the obscurity of night, and the clouds which covered the coast, prevented us from discovering our real situation. Each of us looked upon our destruction as inevitable, and at one moment I was convinced it was so: the continual tossing of the vessel had rendered it impossible for me to remain on deck; I had just retired into the cabin, when a furious squall threw the vessel entirely on her side. A general cry arose on deck, and I heard M. Souza exclaiming, with the most mournful accent: "Ah! this time we are lost!"

However, this moment of crisis passed over; but the uncertainty in which we remained, prevented us from proceeding towards Tangier in the middle of the night. The Genoese captain knew not therefore what course to pursue. He invoked by turns the Virgin Mary, and expressed the most violent despair. "What shall we do, Signior Captain?" cried he to M. Scheult. The advice of the latter, and that of M. Souza were, that notwithstanding the roughness of the sea, which rendered all tacking dangerous, on account of the smallness of the vessel, we ought to endeavour to keep in the same position until morning, by running first on one side and then on the other.

Having adopted their advice, we worked the ship all night in this manner. In the midst of the most profound obscurity we were sailing as it were from the coast of Africa to that of Spain. We approached alternately either Cape Spartel or Cape Trafalgar, and when we thought we could discover land or rocks on one side or on the other, the vessel was immediately turned round. The twilight at length appeared and put an end to our alarm. To our great joy, and after having made a passage of nearly one hundred and twenty leagues in two days and two nights, we discovered, on the morning of the 13th inst. that we were within a little distance of Tangier. At seven o'cloek we cast anchor in the bay, in which we did not observe a single vessel.

The city, in the form of an amphitheatre, presented to our eyes the most affecting appearance. Our arrival was announced, and it was well known, that with the exception of the schooner, no other vessel would in all probability for a long period come to a

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country ravaged by an epidemical disease, which had driven all foreigners away from it. At the moment that we lowered our sails, we saw the French flag on the mast of the consul's house; the flags of all the other powers were successively displayed on the terraces of their respective consuls; and these banners, of various colours, agitated by the wind, which still blew with violence, waved in the air, as the signal of an homage rendered to misfortune by the representatives of Europe.

We soon perceived a group forming along the shore: we were at no great distance from it, but the fear of anchoring in certain parts of the bay which are dangerous, had prevented us from approaching it. Half an hour had scarcely elapsed, ere we saw a boat approaching towards us. It was manned by Moors, headed by the captain of the port, and had been sent by M. Sourdeau himself, who was waiting for us on the shore, together with a number of consuls, and nearly all the Christians residing at Tangier.

We immediately entered into the boat as soon as it came alongside, and separated from the Genoese captain, after wishing him a safe voyage. On approaching the shore, our hearts beat violently; the numerous group, who showed so much eagerness to see us, were less impatient than ourselves. We longed to express our gratitude for the interest which was excited on our behalf. Already we discovered European costumes; already the French uniform, worn by M. Sourdeau, attracted our attention, and soon we were by his side. The satisfaction and joy of this generous man, when shaking me by the hand, equalled the emotion which I myself experienced. We were unable to reply to the felicitations of those who pressed around us from all parts, and the only compensation which a great misfortune can procure, we found in a reception more affecting than we had any reason to expect.

M. Sourdeau informed us, that his house was prepared for our reception; and again pressing me affectionately by the hand, he repeated to me those words of the poet, which could not have been better applied:

"Le malheur qui n'est plus n'a jamais existé."

It only remained for us to thank Providence, who had thus permitted us to surmount so many dangers. Before entering into the house of the consul, M. Sourdeau conducted us into the chapel set apart for the Christians. This chapel, erected by the Spanish government, stands modestly by the side of the grand mosque, and unites the faithful in the midst of the fanaticism of the mussulmen. It was lit up by a number of wax lights, when we entered, and the priests were already at the altar. Divine service commenced immediately, and the consuls of Spain and Portugal, who had accompanied us, assisted in it, as well as a

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number of other Christians. A *Te Deum*, sung in thanksgiving, terminated this affecting ceremony, and each of us, prostrate in the temple, returned thanks to God, with a fervour so much the greater, as the melancholy recollection of our misfortunes was not yet enfeebled by time.

Here terminates the history of our sufferings. We were not yet restored to our country; but, loaded with favours and kindness, we enjoyed, at the house of its worthy representative, the same consolations as we should have found in the bosom of our families.

The interior aspect of Tangier, at the moment of our arrival, gave me a very disadvantageous idea of the comfort which we might expect by a residence there at that period. The plague had carried off a great part of its population, and the return of this scourge was still dreaded, on account of the daily communications which continued to take place with the provinces, where this disorder still raged. The consuls alone had begun to open their houses. Many of them had remained shut up in them during a whole year; others, more fortunate, had been enabled to remove from the empire of Morocco before the contagion had spread. M. Sourdeau was the only European agent who had made no change in his ordinary habits. The idea of the misery which he would experience by living in his own house as a prisoner, induced him to brave all those dangers to which Christians were exposed who continued to have any dealings with the Moors. At the period when the contagion was at its height, he nevertheless hesitated whether he should not remove for a time from the unfortunate city which it depopulated. He had some thoughts of going to Tetouan; but his hesitation was only momentary, and he determined to remain faithful to his post. The sultan, to whom, in this juncture, he requested permission to depart, replied to him from Méquinez. "Thou art perfectly free to go wherever thou wilt, but wert thou in the highest tower of the earth, death would still reach thee."

In the deplorable situation of the consuls, it was a grievous hardship for them to be deprived of their accustomed intercourse with Europe. The sight of the Spanish coast had become indifferent to them, and that of the numerous vessels which were continually crossing the straits of Gibraltar, and avoiding the African coast, brought no relief to their minds. The arrival of a small vessel, which left Gibraltar every fifteen days, was the sole consolation for the Christians in Tangier. They were now impatiently waiting the arrival of this vessel; mounted on their terraces, and with the aid of telescopes, they followed all its movements from the time of its leaving the port. Frequently, in contrary winds, this vessel reaches the bay of Tangier with great difficulty. It remains there only the time necessary to deliver the

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despatches, and a post of English and Spanish soldiers, placed on the deck, prevents all other communication.

One cannot form any idea of the little consideration which the consular body enjoys at Tangier. Will it be believed, that when the delegates of European powers present themselves for the first time to the Emperor, their reception ordinarily takes place in the street, in the midst of dust and rubbish, where, without the least mark of distinction, they are mixed with crowds of the people, and surrounded by soldiers? In 1815, when Muley Soliman came to Tangier, he sat himself down on the steps of an old ruined staircase, in order to receive the visit of the consuls. This shameful manner of publicly treating those persons who are invested with respectable functions, and also of not receiving them at all, unless publicly preceded by presents, announcing a certain kind of submission, contributes in no slight degree to degrade the Christians in the eyes of his subjects, who are witnesses of their humility, as well as of the contempt manifested towards them by their sovereign.

More than a month elapsed in anxious expectation of the arrival of some vessel from Europe. Two ships from Marseilles, announced by the way of Gibraltar, were the only vessels expected. We ardently desired to return to France; but in vain our eyes were directed towards the straits at every hour of the day; none of the vessels which we perceived approached the port. A residence so prolonged became extremely painful, although it might seem we had every comfort. The house of M. Sourdeau had become in some sort my own; and this consul, so distinguished for the nobleness of his sentiments and his extreme delicacy, multiplied his attentions towards us.

But all his kindness could not change the nature of the country; I longed to fly for ever from an odious despotism, and an atmosphere empoisoned by the breath of the inhabitants: M. Sourdeau himself felt how dangerous and painful it is to live in such a country. I may say, with great truth, that if the circumstance of being exposed to continual dangers and privations, to the want of society, and the renouncement of the civilized world, are titles to the esteem and favour of governments, the consuls who reside at Tangier have acquired all these titles.

The house inhabited by M. Sourdeau, although one of the most agreeable of Tangier, is nevertheless far from being comfortable. He could only receive me by putting himself to great inconvenience, but all my representations were unavailing. From the apartment which I occupied I could perceive the two thirds of Tangier. A window to the north discovered to me the Alcassaba, or castle of the city. It is surrounded by very high notched walls, and contains several buildings. This castle is the

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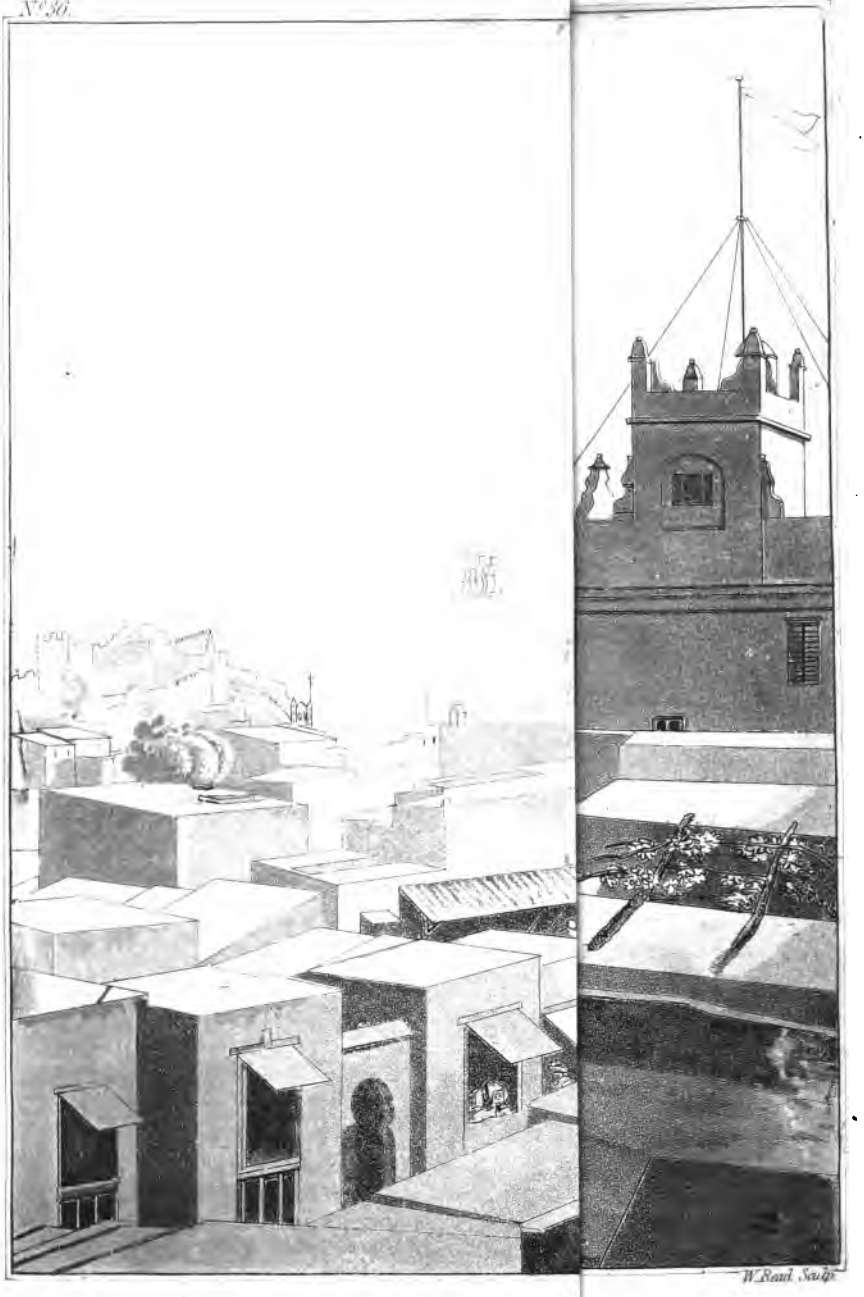

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residence of the Sultan when he visits Tangier: that part of the city which is situated immediately at the foot of the hill on which it is built, presents no remarkable edifice. The uniform appearance of the square houses, their flat and white roofs, has nothing to charm the sight. We could only distinguish on this side the house of the Dutch consul, which appeared of a colossal height in comparison with those which surrounded it. At a distance we discovered a small mosque, and nearer the house of M. Sourdeau are seen, surrounded with trees, the ruins of another mosque, now called by the Christians the Tower of the Storks, because, on the approach of spring, these birds arrive to build their nests.

The view which I enjoyed from the other side was at once more extensive and varied. We perceived Spain in the direction of the north. The straits of Gibraltar, and that part of Africa forming the Bay of Tangier, which is prolonged as far as Cape Malabat, formed the horizon in the East. In all weathers we can distinguish the houses of Tarifa, which is the nearest European city to Tangier; and when the state of the atmosphere will permit, it is easy to perceive, at a single glance, the fortifications which adorn the summit of Gibraltar, and command submission to the numerous vessels which pass within their reach.

The eastern part of Tangier, seen from the house of the French consul, contains, among other buildings, the house of the Spanish consul, and the grand mosque of the city. Near M. Sourdeau's abode is the Alcaisseria, where the daily market is held. This quarter, the most animated of the city, is the centre of continual movement. Here I had continually before me the most varied scenes: sometimes the sound of music announced the funeral procession of a deceased Mussulman, and attracted my attention by the precipitation with which they hurried along to the place of interment; while often at the same moment I would perceive the cortège of a new-married woman, whom her friends were conducting to the house of her husband. Placed in a sort of hamper, which was entirely shut, and carried on the shoulders of four men, she could not be seen by any one, and her husband, who was waiting for her, could alone relieve her from her prison, and see her for the first time.

At last the period of my departure approached; the two vessels, which had been so impatiently expected, anchored in the bay. It was necessary to wait fifteen days longer, before the Jewish merchants could complete their freight; but this delay was not inconvenient for me, as in the interval, Hamar, whom I had not seen for a long time, might be enabled to join me. I had already seen him at Tangier, and he was now gone to Tetouan with the intention of bidding adieu to his family, previous to embarking with me.

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Hamar accordingly arrived in the beginning of January, 1820; but his dispositions were no longer the same. He announced to me, with an air of embarrassment, that his mother was opposed to his departure. His friends had so strongly represented to him how unworthy he would be of the name of a Moor, if he followed Christians, that fanaticism laid hold of his mind, and gained an ascendancy over him in a few days, to which he had formerly been a stranger. However, the pain which he experienced at separating from me was evidently great. It was also with equal regret that I bade adieu to an individual whose generous compassion had saved my life.

The vessel being now ready for sailing, we repaired to the port in order to embark: the greater part of the consuls accompanied us. At the moment of quitting them, I threw myself in their arms, but in vain my eyes sought him whom my heart shall never forget. M. Sourdeau had disappeared from our view, in order to escape from our acknowledgments, and was unwilling also to show how much he felt at a departure which again reduced him to his former lonely situation.

Four or five passengers were not long in joining us. Among these was distinguished a young American captain, who had recently escaped from Melille, where, during four years, he had been detained prisoner by Spain, for having defended himself in a small vessel with extraordinary bravery, against a Spanish frigate, the captain of which suspected he was favouring the independents of South America. Another passenger was a grand Rabbin of Jerusalem, who was returning to Palestine, after having collected the annual tribute which the Jews of the empire of Morocco pay for the support of the holy city.

After a disagreeable passage of seventeen days, we arrived within sight of the French coast. On the 8th of February, by break of day, the sailors, who were on the look-out upon the deck, thought they discovered it: soon they could no longer doubt, the morning clouds disappeared, and the first rays of the rising sun gilded the soil of our country, which was at the same time saluted by the joyful shouts of the crew We anchored at the isle of Pomègue, and, on the 10th of February, I entered with my companions of misfortune into the lazaretto of Marseilles.

FINIS.

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